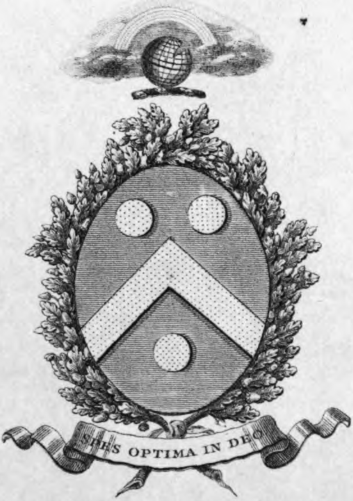
Hope Essays 20s



John Thomas Hope.



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THE
CHINESE SPY;

O R,

EMISSARY from the Court of
PEKIN,

Commiſſioned to examine into

THE PRESENT STATE OF EUROPE.

Tranſlated from the CHINESE.

In SIX VOLUMES.

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THE
CHINESE SPY.

LETTER I.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

I Embarked for Falmouth, and after two days ſailing we were off England.

When the pilot came and told us that we were within ſight of the coaſt, I took a teleſcope, yet could I ſcarce diſcern it, the continent of Great-Britain being ſo very ſmall. So this is, ſaid I in myſelf, that famous potent ſtate, which claims the dominion of the ſea, and at preſent gives law to ſeveral great nations! Really every thing in Europe is miſplaced, the governments, no leſs than

the men, act parts which in no wise belong to them.

We landed at Dover, a small town and thinly inhabited, far from prepossessing a stranger with high ideas of the kingdom: but we were informed that, though in Great Britain, we still wanted a good day's journey to reach England, the whole kingdom being in London. The same thing had been told us at our landing in France, concerning the capital of that country.

A Chinese coming from Pekin to this city directly, would be really astonished: but, not at all, if he takes Paris in his way.

London is dark and smoaky: the sun beams never reach this city, being intercepted by a thick cloud almost continually hovering over it. If the people here are not quite in the dark, they are very far from being in broad day.

The bustle in the streets is nearly the same as at Paris, pushing, jostling, and throwing down, but with this difference, that here the shocks are harder, the bodies being more bulky.

This city has ſomething ſad and gloomy in its firſt aſpect; its very decorations are of a melancholy caſt. The people in the ſtreets ſeem as if walking at a funeral.

At London there is an utter confuſion of all ranks. The high have nearly the ſame ways as the low. The externals are alike, you ſee only one people, and this people may be likened to one public body.

Phyſiognomies are ſcarce in Fngland, the whole nation has but one. A Frenchman may paſs for a Chineſe, a Swiſs, or a German; whereas an Engliſhman can be of no nation, but that of his countenance.

Here no public luxury ſtrikes the eye of a foreigner; little gold or ſilver are wore. The cloaths are in the ſame ſimilarity as the faces; one would think the nation to be in uniform.

All places here, as in France, ſwarm with coaches, but they have neither the brilliancy nor richneſs of the French. They are kept, as in other parts, out of oſtentation; yet this is not carried to a luxury.

An old philosopher has defined man to be a laughing animal, and an Englishman is a thinking animal. The Britons walk like clock-work; it is only their bodies which are in the streets, their mind is at the custom-house, or in some walk on the 'change; for almost every body here is something of a trader, even those of professions very different from any thing of traffick.

London has more houses than Paris, but not so many towns.

Uniformity here is observed even in the very buildings, they are almost all cast in the same mould, and so exactly, that a person may easily mistake his neighbour's house for his own, and act accordingly in it, till the right owner comes and gives him to understand his mistake. Here they go into the houses through the windows, so that if any takes the door way, it is only accidentally.

London, like Paris, is the capital of nations, the general rendezvous of foreigners. France is continually pouring into it. Not a packet boat comes over without a specimen of that monarchy; but these are said not to be the best of England's imports.

LET-

LETTER II.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin Superintendant of Agriculture at* Pekin.

London.

ALL England is cultivated, there is not a ſingle inch of land left waſte; perhaps it is the only kingdom in Europe, which beſides maintaining its own inhabitants, ſupplies other people.

Agriculture makes one of this government's views, or indeed it may be ſaid to be the baſis of them. The principal care of the great men is that the land be well cultivated and improved.

One ſingle œconomical maxim ſometimes gives a government the ſuperiority over others; and by this policy England is not only powerful at home, but its ſtrength abroad is likewiſe augmented by it.

The cultivation of the lands employs a vaſt number of ſubjects, who, without this occupation, would be a charge and nuſance to the community. The en-

couragement of arts and trades makes the nation more ſkilful and inventive. The exportation of its corn finds buſineſs for ſeamen, who, thus, in the exigencies of the ſtate, are ever ready; ſo that the marine ſupports itſelf without any interpoſition of the government.

But the greateſt advantage accruing to England from this general cultivation is, that it foments the ſloth of other nations, and accuſtoms them to dependance on this country in their natural wants; while ſoftneſs inclining them to ſupinity, enervates their courage, and renders them eaſy to be conquered. The hurt this general cultivation does to foreign nations, and on the other hand the good of which it is productive to England, ſcarce admit of an adequate deſcription.

There are things in the European policy which will ever be new to a thinking man. Can it be well accounted for, that when England encreaſed its products, the other ſtates did not follow its example, and give the like encouragements; thereby, they would ſo far have baffled the prudence of England, that a very conſiderable part of Great-Britain would

would ſoon have come to lie fallow as before: for a people, when it has no vent for its products, will cultivate only ſo much as ſuffices for its own conſumption. As what indeed ſhould it do with a ſurplus, which would procure no reward for the labour and expence beſtowed on it.

The more the general policy of Europe is conſidered, the leſs conſiſtent is it always found. The States are continually fighting and negotiating to maintain what is called, the ballance of Europe; no blood nor money is grudged to prevent any thing which may hurt the equilibre; and all the while they overlook what neceſſarily forces down the ſcale.

LETTER III.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin Superintendent of Religion at* Pekin.

London.

RELIGION in England is clear and plain. Here the Deity is not wrapped up in myſteries, which in other parts mnke a mere riddle of it.

The belief of a providence is eaſy; and we may be perſuaded of the exiſtence

of a Supreme Being, without totally renouncing our reaſon.

Neither is religion here disfigured with that multitude of ſuperſtitious ceremonies, which by the very forms of worſhipping God diverts the mind from him, and infect it with ideas unworthy of the divine majeſty.

At firſt ſetting foot into this kingdom, it is eaſily ſeen that the Pope has nothing to do here, for the church folks have but little authority.

In moſt other catholic ſtates of Europe the clergy are factious, proud and aſſuming. Here ſcarce a word is ſaid of that order. Its modeſty even obſerves a decency: which is no ſmall commendation in a ſet of people, who, for the moſt part, quit the tumult and trouble of worldly concerns, formally dedicating themſelves to God, only for the ſake of having more leiſure for vanity and ambition.

In England propagation is not cramped by religion. Every man may raiſe children for the commonwealth. The clergy marry equally with the laity, and amidſt all their ſpiritual labours are obſerved to be no leſs prolific. There is no

no need of other classes exausting themselves to fill up the vacancies caused by ecclesiastical celibacy.

Here the altar is not thought any dispensation from a citizen's first duty ; nor that they, who, by their calling, apply themselves more particularly to admire the creator's grandeur, should be the first to impair his work.

In England a person officiating in the worship of God may love a woman.

All the faithful invoke heaven in the same garb, no religious masquerades are allowed of here.

The only republic here is that of the nation ; all separate communites of idlers have long since been dissolved.

It is forbid to embrace a state of sloth and immure one's self in a convent, for the sake of having nothing to do during one's whole life.

All the commonwealth's charges are distributed ; no individual is intitled to bear the name of a citizen, unless he answers the obligations becoming that character. Every one has an occupation, trade, or calling, by which he requites the state for what he receives from it.

The national opulence circulates freely, without any religious obſtructions. The miniſters of the altar have a ſtipend but without any large donations. The eccleſiaſtics here affect no parade; and to ſave the ſtate from being ſwallowed up by the church, the Pope has been caſhiered, together with ſaints, relicks, and other appendages of his power.

Religion here is no reſtraint to induſtry. They have only one day of reſt in the week, which is devoted to religious exerciſes, whilſt all the others are laid out in the buſineſs of the nation and ſecular affairs; for the Engliſh do not think that ſaints have any authority to ſuſpend mens callings, and to make the ſubject idle two or three months out of the twelve.

Here religion is nothing of a ſight; peoples minds are not diverted from their buſineſs by proceſſions, and other quackiſh exhibitions of the Roman worſhip.

The day is taken up with work and buſineſs, and the night given to ſleep. This city is not diſturbed at midnight with the clatter of bells, only to let the world

world know, that ſome monks are going to prayers.

The ear is not perpetually dinned with the piercing ringings at funerals: here the dead are buried without peſtering the living.

LETTER IV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-te *at* Pekin.

London.

THE whole earth affords nothing ſo beautiful as the form of the Engliſh government; it's plan is really divine: what a pity that it is impracticable, and this ſo well combined ſyſtem only a ſplendid ſpeculation.

This legiſlation muſt, neceſſarily, have fallen ſhort of its plan, being quite miſtaken in human nature, to which it was preſcribed; its laws, in effect, are fit only for angels.

Thou haſt doubtleſs heard of an old Greek, called Plato, a chimerical philoſopher, who unable to ſtrike out a ſcheme of government for men, formed one for ſpirits; the Engliſh conſtitution is the ſecond volume of Plato's ideal republic.

With

With any little influence of the legislation on this people, the Britons would at present, if I may be allowed the expression, be the gods of Europe. Exempt from all those vices which are productive of slavery, they would be possessed of all the virtues consequential to that political liberty, established by their constitution.

Instead of the immoralities prevailing in corrupt states they would be just; their constitution laying down justice as the foundation of their power. Quiet and easy at home, they would endeavour to maintain peace abroad.

In a word, being constitutionally equitable and moderate, their only ambition would be to promote universal happiness; yet, on casting an eye into the history of this people, you immediately see the fruitlessness of this noble scheme. Its texture indeed is so delicate, that it will not bear execution; yet the fault rather lyes in the human heart, than in the laws themselves.

The English constitution is the copy of a fine picture, the original of which is in heaven. Indeed, every where, among the Europeans, instead of the realities which

which I am in quest of, I meet only imaginary beings.

LETTER V.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin Prime Minister at* Pekin.

London.

ON landing in this island, a man must put himself in a passion. This seems here one of the first laws of behaviour; that is, he must either passionately inveigh against the King, or he must give no quarter to the commonwealth: a foreigner is not left to side with either party; no neutrality being allowed herein.

This kingdom, from those of the highest station down to the very lowest class, is divided into two cabals; one is angry with the government, and the other displeased with those who are not angry with it.

To be silent on this head makes a man be looked on as a mere dolt, not capable so much as to reason on state affairs, or politics, as it is called here.

I have an Englishman for my servant, who is the political oracle of a neighbouring

bouring alehouſe. My taylor holds forth amidſt a room full of gazers, who take their opinions from him; and my ſhoemaker, who can neither read nor write, never fails ſettling the affairs of Europe twice a week.

The laſt is very ſtrong and vehement in his rhetoric; in the want of arguments he makes uſe of demonſtration; and, lately, ſeverely belaboured a journeymen of his, for ſaying, that England, after all its glorious campaigns, would give back its conqueſts, and make a diſadvantageous peace.

Phyſicians will have it, that here this diſcharge of political oil is neceſſary for giving motion to the fluids and keeping them in action; adding, that without theſe agitations, which the Engliſh borrow from their government, they would be mere machines.

In Europe every nation has its peculiar paſſion, which cuts it out work. Among the French, religion is the topic of diſpute; among the Engliſh, politics. The former are continually wrangling about heavenly concerns, and the latter are inceſſantly murmuring about the things of the earth.

L E T-

LETTER VI.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* London.

Avignon.

I Write to thee from Avignon, which though in the midſt of France is out of the kingdom.

This country, though very fertile and plentiful, has neither fortified places nor troops. The firſt, who pleaſes, may make it his own, yet no power meddles with it. There is ſomething unaccountable in the princes of Europe. They ſend armies at an immenſe charge to conquer parched and barren countries in other parts of the world, and ſeem to overlook thoſe which, beſides being at their own door, abound in every thing, and they might have for taking.

It is ſaid, the Pope has purchaſed Avignon, but a ſovereignty is not ſaleable, as the purchaſer thereby ſhews himſelf unable to poſſeſs himſelf of it. Ever ſince open force has decided the rights of European princes, all the poſſeſſions are founded on conqueſt; ſo that Avignon

Avignon can be only a mortgage, and lawfully ſeizable on returning the ſum: but chriſtian princes invade without any ſuch juſtifiable motive. It is not from any veneration to Rome that it is ſpared, being otherwiſe extremely oppreſſed. As little is it from any principle of equity, as the unjuſt wars and continual exactions in Europe ſufficiently demonſtrate. That the Pope remains in poſſeſſion of this ſtate proceeds from that riddle or myſtery which runs through the whole chain of European politics, and which the mind of man can never find out.

The climate of Avignon is very fine, and the fertility of its ſoil inviting to labour and induſtry; yet, on entering the city, a heavineſs and laſſitude ſteals over the whole body, ſo that the ſoul becomes quite incapable of action. Phyſicians, who underſtand the influences of climates, attribute this to the lethargic effluvia wafted from Rome. Indeed a ſtate governed by men of ſloth cannot naturally be very active.

The Pope goes the right way to work to make his Avignon ſubjects poor and wretched, leaving them in the full en-

joyment

joyment of their ſubſtance, without ſo much as one tax. The European governments never hit the mark, either overſhooting, or falling ſhort. Some may be ſaid to ſkin their ſubjects of their wealth, others leave them the whole of it: two extremities equally faulty, and their effects the ſame. The people are not to be overloaded; the conſequence of heavy taxes being diſpiritedneſs: but a total exemption from impoſts, naturally leads to indulgence and luxury; and and this is ſure to terminate in indolence and ſloth.

The great and potent ſtate in which this country is hemm'd in, is ſaid to cut the ſinews of its induſtry: but that cannot be, princes have no power on the actions of the ſoul. If a contiguous nation be ingenious and induſtrious, the point is only to rival it in thoſe qualities: and it may be queſtioned whether herein the little ſtate has not the advantage, all its parts lying nearer to obſervation, ſo that the ſeveral branches of its induſtry may be kept in an equal pace, which gives it the ſuperiority. I ſay, things muſt be ſo where violence and oppreſſion interfere not.

LET-

LETTER VII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin Prime Miniſter at* Pekin.

London.

THOU aſkeſt me whether England has a king? now this queſtion puts a Chineſe to a ſtand; for being brought up in an abſolute government, he thinks there can be no king without unlimited power.

An emperor of China, and a king of England are very widely different. I have not yet been able to come at a clear knowledge of what is meant here by the title of king.

It is merely this. This kingdom has a great perſonage who is called, SIRE, YOUR MAJESTY, and has ſeveral bodies of guards and ſentinels ſtanding at his door. To this SIRE the nation annually gives an allowance of eight hundred thouſand pounds ſterling on the public revenues, which is at the rate of two hundred thouſand pounds worth of majeſty a quarter, and he muſt not act majeſty beyond that ſum.

Indeed

Indeed, when it happens to prove a bad year, and extraordinary charges and pensions have brought his coffers low, some gratifications are granted to make him whole again.

Thou likewise askest me whether this crown be elective or hereditary? This is another thing I am ignorant of. There are different cases, according to which it is one or the other. All I can inform you on this head is, that when the English don't like their king, they eject him, and, in this light, the crown is elective, as, after having rid themselves of him, they chuse another: but under another appearance it is hereditary; for, on the demise of a king, the heir or heiress steps into the sovereignty, without consulting any other body of the state.

A third question of thine is, whether the kings of England have any power? Now this is no less perplexing than the former. It is not here as in China, where the emperor can take away the life of the greatest man in the empire; for a king of England has no power on the life of the meanest citizen, nor even so much as on his freedom or substance.

He

He has the prerogative of declaring war, but if the war diſpleaſes the nation, no money is given him to carry it on, and then his declaration is totally fruſtrated; for here, as in all other ſtates, fleets and armies are not to be had without money.

In this monarchy there is a public arrangement which prevents moſt of the abuſes ſo common in others; I mean, that the Finances are not in the king's hands. In Europe, however, expedients are found for every thing; ſo that a king, though not abſolute by Conſtitution, may become ſo by combination.

I ſhall, perhaps, have occaſion in ſome of my letters to ſhew you, that this king, who ſcarce ſeems to be ſuch, is more a king than they who are inveſted with an abſolute deſpotiſm.

LETTER VIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

FOREIGNERS judge of a nation by the firſt things they ſee. A people of a mild and humane behaviour they conclude

conclude to be civilized; whereas, on perceiving a rude quarrelſome diſpoſition, and a delight in bloody ſpectacles, they look upon ſuch a nation as barbarians. Wherefore magiſtrates, or the heads of the police, ſhould not overlook a certain ferocity naturally dwelling in the human mind, and to be reſtrained only by laws; for that a people gain either of thoſe characters, is not a matter of indifference.

I was lately at a moſt horrid ſhow, uſually exhibited on a ſtage in this city *. Barbarity itſelf, as it were, acts there in perſon. The French play tragedies, but the Engliſh act them; inſtead of copies, here you have original performances of cruelty.

The bill for this ſhow gave out, that on ſuch a day, two men would do their beſt to kill one another. Before, and during the combat, the ſpectators kept a hideous clamour about betting on this ſportive effuſion of human blood. Thou wouldſt ſhudder, wert thou to ſee what a figure the actors of theſe tragedies

* This ſtage has been put down ſince the acceſſion of George IId. to the throne.

make

make of one another. Every part of their body is bruiſed, ſometimes it coſts them a limb or two, at other times they come off with only lameing themſelves, breaking an arm, or the loſs of an eye. But there are inſtances of one of the parties dying by the hurts he received, and yet the other is not hanged. Theſe murders are allowed and applauded; it is only thoſe committed in the public ſtreets or highways that the magiſtrate takes cognizance of: as for a man's being killed on this ſtage, it is all fair, and for the entertainment of the public. The combatants are left to chuſe their weapons; they may either knock one another's eyes out with their hands, or ſplit their ſkull with a cutlaſs, or break each others bones with cudgels or quarter ſtaves.

The plea for this ſanguinary cuſtom is, that ſuch fights keep up the national courage; very unhappy is a people that muſt make themſelves cruel, in order to become ſavage. This is authorizing a great many vices to form only one virtue. But I affirm that military qualities are not acquired on theſe butcherly ſtages; experience has often ſhewn that the

the courage of theſe gladiators is only local and limited to the theatre of their mercenary prowefs.

England would be at a ſad paſs had it only an army of theſe bruiſers to depend on, for I dare ſay, on the firſt diſcharge, they would turn tail. If in the battles between ſovereigns the two armies were to grapple body to body, or to box it out, this prize fighting ſtage might be ſomething of a military ſchool; but as ſovereigns think fit to make uſe of powder and ball, the ſkill and activity of theſe gymnaſtic performers are quite out of the queſtion.

As to the qualities of the ſoul productive of courage, they are never to be derived from ſuch trials of ſkill. They who fight for money, and boaſt of their ſtrength, have generally little real mettle; true courage avoids oſtentation, diſdains barbarity, and revolts at the ſetting a price on human blood. Valour is founded on virtues quite abhorrent from a venal ſtage.

In ſuch ſpectacles a people contracts a familiarity with bloodſhed, without becoming in the leaſt more courageous. Theſe exhibitions are attended with all the inconveniencies

conveniencies of cruelty, without producing any one of the advantages of bravery.

The Romans, it is added, instituted such entertainments; yes, and to these it was owing that they grew so barbarous. The ruin of the republic may be dated from the first appearance of the gladiators in the Arena. This institution gave rise to a multitude of corruptions before unknown. It is the disease of the moderns to imitate the antients in every thing bad, and to keep at a distance from those virtues which rendered them the admiration of the universe.

I could say a great deal more concerning this inhuman practice, but it seems to me a waste and abuse of human reason to employ it in exposing such usages.

LETTER IX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the same, at* Pekin.

London.

THIS delight in single combats is not limited to the formality of a stage; it is seen in the streets; there is not

not a part in all this great city, which does not, every day, afford a ſcene of mutilation. Moſt of the punctilios of honour are here decided by fiſticuffs; all places ſwarm with theſe duels, which often terminate in the diſlocation of a limb, or broken bones.

In other parts of Europe, people ſeek a bye place to fight in; but here all perſonal combats are tranſacted in public; the mob gets together, makes a ring, and the battle begins. When one of the dueliſts happens to be flung, and thus unable to defend himſelf, the ſpectators interpoſe, and hinder the other from taking advantage of his ſituation; they raiſe him up, and ſet him on his legs, and encourage him to take the other bout, that is, they have the humanity to prolong the ſcene, and make it more bloody. Theſe battles are far from being peculiar to the populace; for, excepting ſome perſons of rank, who chuſe the ſword and piſtol, all claſſes generally vindicate their honour with their fiſts.

Some days ago my coach happened to get foul of my lord E——'s; our coachmen began to abuſe each other;

but continuing their vociferations without coming to blows, the young lord being a man of more mettle than his ſervant, let down one of the glaſſes, and propoſed to me to make an end of this affair by the uſual ways. I thanked his lordſhip for the trouble he was willing to take to knock out one of my eyes, or break one of my limbs; and begged of him that, as our coachmen had begun the quarrel, they themſelves might alſo end it.

And it is not only men, but the very beaſts in England fight duels. An Engliſhman muſt certainly be of a very miſchievous temper; for he ſpends his life in fomenting wars among creatures, which, were it not for his inſtigations, would live together in the profoundeſt peace and tranquility. They have a way here of putting weapons on cocks, and ſetting them to fight, in which thoſe creatures ſhew wonderful ardour; but the conquerer, to be compleatly ſuch, muſt lay his antagoniſt dead on the ſpot. Indeed few of theſe brave creatures turn tail, whilſt they have any life in them. Dogs likewiſe are taught to tear one another to pieces.

There

There are Britons in the country who employ themſelves in ſetting even the aquatic creatures a fighting; and I myſelf was preſent, the other day, at a pitched battle of fiſhes. The armies conſiſted chiefly of large carps; ſalmons were the heavy cavalry, and eels the light troops, beſides a reſerved body of pikes; the field of battle was a large reſervoir near Richmond; and next week I am to ſee a general action of mice, which a Yorkſhire gentleman has trained up to war. But a grand ſcheme is talked of, which is, for rats to encounter cats. Should the latter be worſted, there would, in a great meaſure, be an end of England; for the rats thus multiplying and encreaſing, will prey on the inhabitants.

I have lately been informed, that a few leagues out of London there lives a virtuoſo who has learned ten or twelve ſpiders to attack each other, and defend themſelves; and another, who makes it his buſineſs to diſcipline flies. Is not this being a diſturber of nature's peace, and keeping harmleſs creatures in a continual ſtate of hoſtility with one another?

LETTER X.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Avignon.

THIS place was formerly the reſidence of the popes: but ſince their removal to Rome, they ſend hither, as their repreſentative, a Legate, with the title of prince. He has guards of ſeveral kinds; and lives in all the ſtate of a monarch. He is, in fact, the Avignon pacha.

All people in the world, the very ſavages not excepted, have a government; which is more than I can ſay of this ſtate: The public affairs go on as they can; and the men in office do as they liſt.

The vice-legate, in requiring the payment of unjuſt debts, in impriſoning, or inflicting the baſtinado on a ſubject, does it by his own perſonal authority, without ſo much as any form of law. This is, here, called proceeding ſovereignly; that is to ſay, adminiſtering juſtice after the Turkiſh way. All the

the tribunals are for that time under ſuſpence, the laws intermitted, juſtice ſilenced; the prince's will being all in all.

The king of France ſays, *I will have it ſo*; and the vice-legate of Avignon, *It is my order*; with this difference, that the former's will is ſometimes good, but the latter's order is almoſt ever wrong.

Beſides, this inſupportable deſpotiſm is uſually accompanied with malverſation. If the Turkiſh pachas harraſs provinces, the Avignon vice-legates fleece the principality. Their reign expiring at the end of ſix years, all make the moſt of their time; and as for leaving an exhauſted country to their ſucceſſor, that gives them little concern.

Other ſtates, however they may ſuffer by monopolies, retrieve themſelves by the monopoliſts ſtill remaining in the ſame country; whereas wretched Avignon reaps no manner of advantage from the extortions of its government.

And that the Turkiſh and Avignon conſtitution may be entirely of a piece, every vice-legate has his favourite ſul-

 tana,

tana, who is the channel both of his favours and his injuries.

She is the perſon to whom application muſt be made; ſhe receives petitions, reads memorials, hears complaints, and gives orders. She rules the ſtate like an abſolute miſtreſs, ſo that the prince is but the ſecond perſon in the legation.

Conceive, if thou canſt, the miſery of a people governed by a deſpotic man, and he directed by the caprices of a woman!

LETTER XI.

The Mardarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

JUSTICE here almoſt moves of itſelf; nothing is ſo eaſy as the adminiſtration of it. The people of England can do without tribunals, and occaſionally even without magiſtrates.

One ſingle book preſerves and upholds the community. The matter is this: When any perſon has broken the public peace; has killed, beaten, or robbed another, this book is opened, and in it

is

is found the punishment appointed for his crime; which he suffers accordingly. After execution, the book is shut, till some other malefactor or peace-breaker causes it to be opened again.

This you see is very easy; all that the juries have to do is to hear, and the executioner to hang. Here are no such thing as proper judges; they who bear that title being only interpreters of the law which is written in that book. Now this is an excellent contrivance, and of great convenience; it saves the parties the trouble of bribing their judges, and these the trouble of suffering themselves to be bribed.

I have not yet read this book; but I believe it must make a noble work: probably it is something voluminous, being said to contain every particular case of trespass and peace-breaking.

Concerning this book, I have heard some very extraordinary things, and which little correspond with the usages of other European nations.

For instance; it says that the administration of justice should be alike to all men; that the greatest man in the kingdom is no more than the least; that in

point of law, the loweſt member of the commonwealth is equal to the higheſt. That an artificer can have a gentleman, refuſing to pay a juſt debt, put in priſon; and that a peer of the kingdom, killing the meaneſt of his ſervants, is liable to be hanged, &c. with a multitude of other contradictions of the like nature, quite contrary to the ways and manners of other nations.

Probably the firſt edition of this book was defective; it having often been reviſed and enlarged. The laſt editors, however, have torn out a great many leaves; but ſubſtituted a greater number in their ſtead.

Some Engliſhmen affirm, that the firſt edition was better than the laſt; and that ſo many corrections have only ſpoiled the work. If this be really the caſe, the book of the laws of England, by theſe repeated amendments, will at laſt come to be no better than that which its neighbours make uſe of in the adminiſtration of juſtice.

LET-

LETTER XII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* High Treaſurer, *at* Pekin.

London.

THOU aſkeſt me whether England be rich, and has great finances: This queſtion puzzles me as much as any of the former; it being really a riddle which policy has not yet found out.

The riches of a ſtate very much depend on the manner of combining them. England, with one half leſs current caſh than France, is twice as rich.

Great Britain has contrived an imaginary money, equivalent to the real: this is a circulating paper, repreſenting a wealth which has no real exiſtence, yet doubles the public funds, and encreaſes wealth, without multiplying caſh.

Twopence ſterling here repreſents ſeveral millions; ſo thou ſeeſt that here riches are to be had at a very ſmall coſt.

Now the riches of France are all of the ſame nature; here they are different; for whilſt money is anſwering its end in the general circulation, paper does the like

like in its kind. It has long been ſaid, that ſhould all the proprietors of this paper be, at one and the ſame time, for realizing it, the emptineſs of this two-fold wealth would ſoon be felt.

But it being next to impoſſible that ſo many men ſhould have the ſame thoughts at one time; it is concluded, that this will never happen: and thus this chimerical wealth may exiſt without end.

Some attempts have been made to realize theſe ideal riches; then they whoſe buſineſs it is to give caſh for theſe papers, tho' they did not abſolutely refuſe payment, diſcharged their bills ſo very ſlowly, that they would not have made an end while the world laſts.

Do not, however, imagine that ſenſible people are duped by this imaginary opulence; ſome have more than once demonſtrated its inanity; but it has been agreed to take no notice of it.

After all, no body is detrimented by it; gold and ſilver are not riches of themſelves, but only metals made choice of as tokens or marks: now what hinders but a paper may be added, repreſenting thoſe very ſigns. It is a matter of agreement; and when the particulars

are

are all laid down, and consented to, there can be no mistake or fraud.

LETTER XIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

ONE would think that all the sovereigns of Europe had agreed to be weak; they oppose and resist every thing except their passions: in this they have not the strength of the meanest of their subjects.

The king of this nation is governed by a woman. George has great qualities; is an able politician, with much ambition: still is he a man. The danger herein seems to me, that he is advanced in years; the declining age of a sovereign is the luckiest time for a female favourite; she gets every thing from him, because he no longer gets any thing from her: it is a kind of compensation for the disagreeableness of age. A young prince sometimes takes the liberty to refuse, having in him wherewith to make amends for his refusal;

but an old man always grants, it being the only way he has to gratify her.

The danger of a bad adminiſtration by female favourites, is however leſs in England than in any other European ſtate; if there are any ſovereigns in the world, who may ſafely give themſelves up to their paſſions, it is the kings of Great Britain. The nation takes care that the prince's paſſion ſhall not much affect the public. The people is ſuperior to the king's pleaſures. A female favourite's department here is very inconſiderable, ſcarce reaching beyond the prince's bed, or at moſt, the management of things within doors; it may be, that ſhe rules the king; but the ſtate is quite without her verge.

LETTER XIV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE London opera is not ſo well peopled as that of Paris; three women, a ſinger, and two eunuchs uſually making the whole community. It

It is a fine garden, intermixed with walks and avenues; and inhabited by Italian nightingales, in whom the quality take inexpressible delight.

Besides the expence of the stage door for seeing the opera, the key to it is likewise to be bought. This is a little book, explaining the piece in English, the performance being in *lingua Toscana*; so that the *my lords* and *my ladies* don't come hither purely for the sake of the opera, but that they may seem to have a taste for Italian music, this being at present a mark of elegancy; and there is no being tolerably genteel without having half a dozen ariettas by heart. Indeed you are not obliged to understand them, and much less to sing them; so that the fashionable folks soon become proficients in this music.

The places of the spectators are laid out otherwise than at the Paris theatre, the reverse of rank being very carefully observed.

The princes of the royal family, ambassadors of crowned heads, noblemen of the highest distinction sit in the pit, and the citizens in the first boxes.

boxes*. The great men ſit under the feet of the commonalty; ſo that ſhould the flooring give way, what a ſlaughter of illuſtrious perſonages would be the conſequence!

This ſpectacle muſt not be very divine, not the leaſt trace of any God being to be ſeen in it. Nay it has not ſo much as a man; for almoſt all the ſcenes are between women and eunuchs. At Paris it is the *ſovrani* who ſing; here the *ſoprani*.

Footmen and coachmen have the ſame privilege, at this ſhow, as their maſters and miſtreſſes. I mean they are admitted; ſo that with ſtables and coach houſes along the entries, the whole equipage would partake of the opera. I may perhaps have occaſion to make further mention of this opera.

* Theſe are here called the Gallery.

LET-

LETTER XV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

I Purpose perfecting myself in the English tongue; and this is nothing near so difficult an enterprize as learning French. The former may very properly be called a dead language; as it requires little or no action in the organs.

The people here speak only with the extremity of their lips, striking their tongue against the teeth, which forms a continual hissing. They might almost do without a mouth. Were you to see the face of an English orator in the heighth of an harangue, you would take him only for a painted image. You hear sounds; but nothing of motion is seen. I believe a dumb man might be taught English sooner than any other language; perhaps the very impediment of his organs would be a means of forwarding him in it.

I omit any discussion on its origin. The philologists will have it to be very antient;

antient; the Gauls, the Romans, the Saxons, the Danes, and the Normans have all introduced ſomething of their tongues; and thus made a medley of various ingredients.

Though ſuch an irregular mixture could naturally give no umbrage to the jealouſy of tyrants; yet has it not eſcaped perſecution.

One William, after conquering the ſtate, was likewiſe for exterminating its very language; he made laws for the ſuppreſſion of it; ſubſtituting a foreign language in its ſtead. If he did not quite gain his ends in aboliſhing it, he however ſpoiled it.

A queen, called Elizabeth, was for perfecting it; but perhaps it was then too late. Under her reign, indeed, God was addreſſed in better Engliſh*; but the general language continued juſt the ſame.

Some luſtres afterwards an hypocritical tyrant, reduced it to an enthuſiaſtic jargon. After him came a polite and voluptuous court, which ſophiſticated it

* In her reign, the ſtyle of the public prayers underwent ſome emendations

with

with puns, quibbles, and conundrums. A ſucceſſion of two or three foreign kings to the throne of this nation left the language as they found it, that is, harſh and uncouth.

A foreign ear is offended with the great number of conſonants; it is what the Aſiatics eſpecially cannot be reconciled to. On my firſt coming to London, I frequently miſtook Engliſh compliments for affronts. This language, like moſt of the European, is both very rich and very poor. The Britons have ſome ways of ſpeaking, which ſignify more than they mean; and others which do not expreſs half of what they would ſay.

There are expreſſions in their language which make them ſay too much, and others which hinder them from ſaying any thing at all. It is ſaid that they have no word anſwerable to the French *ennui*; yet it is a word that ſhould be very neceſſary among them.

The Engliſh muſt certainly apprehend that their language is deficient in ſweetneſs; for from their childhood they are taught that of a neighbouring nation, with whom they are leſs inclined to converſe than to fight.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

GEORGE the ſecond, after a reign of thirty-five years over the Engliſh, is no more. His career was of an uncommon length; and death delayed to ſurpriſe him till at the higheſt pitch of his grandeur. He has been, for ſome months paſt, the moſt powerful king in the world; he carried all before him, both in Europe and Aſia, Africa, and America.

This prince was the greater, as he made all the other potentates of Europe little. At ſuch a degree of elevation, the happieſt thing that can befal a man is, for the dream of life to end ſuddenly. George enjoyed his dignity to the laſt moment of his life. He was living a minute before he died. He left the world without any of thoſe diſeaſes which make princes remember they are men. A monarch living ſo long, and dying ſo quickly as he, is leſs to be pitied than envied.

envied. When life is come to its laſt ſcene, I account it an advantage to die without being aware of it. Not to die inſtantly, is to die again and again.

When an European ſovereign ceaſes to live, extraordinary reports are always ſet on foot about his death; thus, that of the late king is ſaid to have been cauſed by a gale of wind, which hindered the courier's coming over from Germany, whence he expected important advices; but on opening his body the phyſicians ſaw that the wind had no concern in his death. The Engliſh ſeldom grieve much about their kings; they have too much buſineſs on their hands to ſhed tears; every one minds the main chance, and thinks only how to make the moſt of the event.

Not a word is ſaid of George the ſecond's virtues or vices: was he not then neither great nor little? This indifference ſeems to me not quite equitable: for a monarch, under whoſe reign ſuch conqueſts have been made, and who is more powerful at his death than he was at his acceſſion to the throne, at leaſt deſerves ſome praiſe.

For

For a king of France to be great is no hard matter, he need only have the will to be so; that is, he need only to make use of his authority and his ascendency over his people; his orders meet with quick obedience; and all voluntarily concur to second his desire. Whereas a king of England must owe this distinction to his parliament. Now it is no easy matter to be great, when one must ask leave of so many persons to be so.

There is indeed a mystery in the reign of this prince, which has not yet been quite cleared up; half of it politicians account for, but are quite at a stand about the other. They admit the advantages obtained to be great; they allow the nation's conquests to be exceeding important; but then they ask, whether this power has not been acquired too hastily? whether the means made use of are not forced? and whether it is not to be apprehended that the structure of this new greatness will fall to pieces, for want of a support, and crush the nation under its ruins?

LET-

LETTER XVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE farther I advance into Europe, the farther I ſeem to be from the human heart; I am, in ſome meaſure, bewildered, and find myſelf, as it were, alone, in the midſt of this branch of mankind.

Intereſt and vanity, the two great mobiles in the world, here purſue their ends by oppoſite roads.

I well knew, that ornaments and rich cloaths were among the objects of vanity; but I did not know that ſelf-love could delight in a low and diſagraceful kind of appearance. I did not know that, to be very great, a man muſt dreſs very mean. I never heard that maſters had made it a point of oſtentation to diſguiſe themſelves like footmen; and that ladies of the firſt rank took a pride in appearing like ſervant maids.

The other day I went to the houſe of one of the firſt noblemen of England, with

with a letter of recommendation, given me by an acquaintance at Paris.

As I was on the steps, going into the house, I met a kind of domestic coming out. Friend, said I, is my lord P—— at home, and is he to be seen this morning? Yes, answered he, he is to be seen, and you now see him: I am my lord. These words quite thunder-struck me. I ask your lordship a thousand pardons, continued I; but the mistake is no fault of mine; for who would have known you to have been a lord in that garb?

I delivered my letter to him; but as he was going out on business of consequence, he desired me to excuse him for that time; but added, my lady is at home, and she will receive you.

I went into the house; and going through a second anti-chamber, here I met a kind of waiting maid, whom I ordered to go and tell my lady that a foreigner, who had just left my lord, would be glad to pay his respects to her. Sir, answered this person with a smile, I can discharge your commission without any great trouble, for I am my lady.

But

But ſometimes other kinds of miſtakes fall out here.

I have been told a ſtory of a foreigner, who gave a green livery, and had ſent one of his footmen abroad on buſineſs: vexed at his not returning ſo ſoon as he might, the maſter went out, and coming up with a man, made and cloathed like his footman, he actually miſtook him for ſuch, ſeeing only his back; and laying him on with his cane, ſaid, You creeping raſcal, make haſte. But the perſon turning about, proved to be a man of conſequence; and the foreigner, knowing him, ſaid, My lord, I aſk your pardon; but, dreſſed as you are, like my footman, I thought I might make free with my own livery.

I take this to be no more than a ſtory, though perhaps not intirely without foundation; and a ſuppoſition often leads to the illuſtration of a truth.

This appearance, which throws a great man infinitely beneath his rank, is a refinement in pride; ſelf-love conſidering only itſelf, deſpiſes every thing about it, as unworthy to promote its dignity. There is more vanity in this debaſement than is thought. I know not whether

thou

thou wilt underſtand me when I tell thee, that the loweſt mark of abjection is placed in the higheſt degree of oſtentation. They who are for juſtifying uſages by politics, alledge, that this jumbling of ranks derives from the government; the principle of which being liberty, tends to equality; but men conſider themſelves more than the republic, and their vanity always takes the lead of the conſtitution.

LETTER XVIII.

The Mandarin Nio-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Avignon.

THERE are two kinds of national corruptions; one flowing from the legiſlation, while the ſource of the other lies in the manners: the latter may be rectified; and very often, any new turn in morality will do it; but the other is ſcarce corrigible, its ſource lying in the conſtitution, which when once ſettled, knows no change.

Formerly Avignon had a ſpirit of induſtry, but the ſtate ſold it to France; and

and now this people is paid to do nothing *. This is making a fund of ſloth and realizing idleneſs itſelf

There is no price equal to induſtry; and this not ſo much for its being a plentiful ſource of wealth, but as productive of a ſettled ſpirit of labour and application, of order, of thriftineſs, and ceremony; and, of courſe, is a bar againſt the oppoſite vices.

The inhabitants of Avignon, from morning till night, have now nothing to do but to backbite; and this they follow with all the activity of an idle people. A ſtranger, on his coming to Avignon, has no ſooner got his boots off, than he knows every thing that is doing, or rather more; for in a town where the people have nothing to do, calumny generally goes along with backbiting.

This vice was introduced by indigence. And there are two oppoſite parties at Avignon, *wretchedneſs* and *poverty*. Their weapons being equal, the war knows no intermiſſion. Envy, ha-

* The company of royal farms gives to the people of Avignon, every year, about a hundred and fourſcore thouſand livres; not to manufacture any tobacco or cotton ſtuffs

tred, aversion, animosity, and every other fault annexed to public indigence, keep ill nature in exercise.

Here a treat shall occasion a battle, and a public entertainment produce an intestine war. The inhabitants are all in a ferment at such doings; accounting them an insult on their inability of doing the like; and this supposition immediately sets them in a blaze.

A people with nothing to do usually runs headlong into politics.

The great office of intelligence concerning the interest of princes, is the table of a lieutenant-general of the king of France's armies, who never headed a body of troops. You will there hear long-winded reasonings on the affairs of Europe.

The general is remarkable for a prodigious penetration, in some measure anticipating Providence, and in politics more knowing than God himself.

He will tell you, a month or two before, the tenor of a certain commander's conduct, and the measures he will take to gain a decisive battle; and so punctual is he in this respect, that if you desire it, he

he will give you an account of the killed and wounded, with a liſt of the priſoners. And ſo certain is he of what he ſays, that he would have Te Deum ſung beforehand.

But with all his infallible preſcience, had I been inclined to lay wagers, I could have won his whole fortune; for he offered to bet me a hundred thouſand livres that the king of Pruſſia would not hold out two campaigns; a like ſum that he would be beaten everywhere; and the third, that at the end of the war, he would give up Sileſia to the houſe of Auſtria: Now theſe three wagers would have juſt beggered his political excellency.

In oppoſition to this junto, who are intirely French, there is another not leſs ſanguine in the Pruſſian intereſt; and of thoſe alſo I could have made a good hand; for its oracle profered to lay me a wager of ten thouſand crowns, that the king of Pruſſia would take another of the queen of Hungary's provinces; thirty thouſand livres that he would be at the gates of Vienna; and a like ſum, that prince Ferdinand would drive the French intirely out of Germany, &c. &c.

 All

All thoſe wretched conjectures flow from the vanity of the human mind affecting to dive into the ſecrets of cabinets, and to know more of the war than the very powers engaged in it.

LETTER XIX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

THIS people are like the Aſiatics, in the very things wherein the Europeans moſt differ from them, I mean the confinement of women. There is indeed no law in Great Britain enjoining it; but the men keep themſelves at ſuch a diſtance from women, as very nearly comes up to the Oriental ſeraglios.

I cannot preciſely tell thee whether the Engliſh obſerve Mahomet's law, and whether in this part of their manners they conform to the Turks; but certain it is, that they uſe women as if they were of an inferior nature to themſelves: ſo little do they converſe with them, that their union ſcarce deſerves to be called ſociety. So little do they value their company, that a feaſt, or any trifling diverſion is always preferred to it. However women

Sometimes

ſometimes may engage their heart, it is very ſeldom that their mind concerns itſelf about them.

They plead that the women are not entertaining; but the true cauſe of this is, that they themſelves are little ſo; for the qualities of men are, as it were, the mould in which thoſe of women receive their form.

The Britons have not time to be agreeable in women's company; ambition, politics, and debauchery deprive them of that leiſure which is neceſſary to acquire an habit of gallantry and politeneſs; whilſt their neighbours, being leſs buſy than they, are ſeldom deficient in thoſe engaging qualities.

Some women require complaiſance, reſpect and aſſiduity. A lover muſt ſollicit, muſt win, and deſerve their heart; now this makes love a cloſe buſineſs; very confining and uneaſy to perſons ſufficiently uneaſy of themſelves. They judge it a quicker way at once to break through all thoſe obſtacles, and plunge into debauchery where every difficulty is ſmoothed, women being ſeduced to their hand, ſo that they have not ſo much as the trouble of aſking. This

is here called loving like a man of ſenſe; and England is now ſo much over-run with good ſenſe, that it has killed all the amiable qualities both of the heart and mind.

LETTER I.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

WHEN I reflect on the occurrences in the different ſtates of Europe, I cannot forbear believing that nations govern themſelves, and that when once the adminiſtration is ſet a going, the ſtate moves of itſelf.

Here is an aſſembly called the parliament, conſiſting of upwards of five hundred members, repreſenting the nation, which contains ſeven millions of inhabitants; ſo that each of its members has a hundred thouſand of king George's ſubjects committed to his care; he is at the head of all their concerns political and civil; he manages them, ſpeaks in their behalf, conſults their intereſt, prevents the laying on of two great duties, and oppoſes

oppreſſive

oppressive imposts; he fixes their quota in their general taxes, and takes care that they be not over-rated; he secures to them the enjoyment of the national privileges, and of new advantages acquired. These are so many distinct petty republics, which carefully avoid any collisions, so that, the great republic which comprehends them all may be in a continual equilibrium. At least, such is the institution of this parliament, and the duty of each of its members.

A great number of these, however, have no capacity for such things, and never so much as think of them; their views lie even quite opposite ways. They get their seat through the king's favour, or bribing the people. The generality of them purchase it at the rate of so many thousand pounds an election. Thus, thou seest, it is not so much men as money which are members of this senate.

Several reeking from a house of ill fame, or after spending the night in intemperance and riot, shall repair to this assembly, and there, whilst the affairs of the nation are under deliberation, fall fast asleep. What then becomes of the concerns of those whom they represent?

they

they of courſe alſo ſleep. The general affairs, however, move on, and amidſt all the faults of the adminiſtration, and the oppreſſion of the leſſer republics, the grand one ſtill ſubſiſts.

I do not ſee the neceſſity of this huge body; in my opinion ſeventy members well choſen would govern the ſtate as well, if not better than ſeven hundred; at leaſt, it would ſave the ſlowneſs unavoidable in deliberations of large aſſemblies.

I have often cloſely obſerved the procedure of ſtate affairs in this aſſembly, and find that they are directed by about a ſcore of perſons; then what ſignify all the others? It is, ſay they, to guard againſt deſpotiſm; but is there no deſpotiſm, when four hundred and fourſcore members, being ſcarce half awake, conſtantly vote as twenty would have them. On the contrary, ſuch acquieſcence immoveably eſtabliſhes this uſurped dominion of the few.

LETTER XXI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

ONE of the literati of this country was lately ſaying to me, that for theſe two thouſand years paſt, mankind had made no progreſs in the ſciences, having loſt themſelves by the way. He added, that the Engliſh had firſt diſcovered the track, and rung the bell for gathering together all thoſe of their time, and ſetting them in the right way.

The Engliſh poſſibly may have rung the bell, for no great abilites are required to make a noiſe, but the queſtion is whether this Britiſh ringing has put the Europeans in the path leading to truth.

I have peruſed the writings of theſe bell-ringers, known here by the name of Bacon, Boyle, Newton, and others. They have indeed opened a new road, but ſtill the difficulty remains, which is to know, whether it be the right road.

The general prepoſeſſion is intirely for them; as with reſpect to any avenue

leading to knowledge, the Europeans always think the laſt the beſt.

Theſe bell ringers were not the firſt, and who knows whether others may not hereafter likewiſe take the ropes in hand; and thus by one bell-ringing after another, peoples brains may be ſo diſordered, as to fall into the ſame groſs ignorance from which it is boaſted the firſt peal had reſcued them.

To me, who view every thing in a moral light, a nation appears no farther learned than in proportion to its wiſdom. In this ſenſe perhaps the arts have not been much improved by the Engliſh peal; at leaſt, the doctors of this people ſay, that the heart of the Engliſh is much more depraved at preſent, than when they had not ſet a foot in the path of knowledge.

But if the Engliſh may claim the preference in ſome ſciences of uſe to navigation and trade, it muſt, at the ſame time be allowed, that they have in many others continued very backward.

They who eſtimate the ſeveral kinds of genius in Europe ſay, that this nation has pounds of juſtneſs and preciſion, but not a drachm of taſte.

Another

Another Briton, who has ſhaken off all national prejudices, was ſaying to me, "we are excellent copies but "wretched originals. Moſt nations out-"do us in invention, but we exceed "them in imitation. We beat all Eu-"rope for poliſhing, but cannot do "without models."

This perfection in imitation is owing to the patience and pertinacity of this people. It is not ſo much the mind as the body which acts. A ſtrong unweildy machine ſets to work, and by time and aſſiduity goes beyond the inventor. Theſe people may be termed the aſſes of mechanic arts, and the drudges of handicrafts.

LETTER XXII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou na *at* Pekin.

London.

A Book on the preſent war is lately come out, and by the generality of the nation much approved; for it ſays, that Great-Britain ought not to ſend either troops or money into Germany:

which is certainly right; for had England avoided taking part in the divisions of the north, and have kept her money and subjects at home, it would have been much more to her advantage.

This capital affords some persons so profoundly versed in systems, that, in their speculations, they can do without the first principles of politics, and declaim through a whole volume, turning only on the pivot of their own ideas.

As to the interest of crowns, it requires no conjuration to guess, that a people remaining quiet, whilst other nations ruin themselves by expensive wars, has the better end of the staff.

This frugal observator very elegantly sets forth what England should have done to save its troops and money, by leaving the country of Hanover to its own strength and Germany to its revolutions; but he passes over the inconveniences which would have resulted to Great Britain from not concerning its self in the northern war: not a word of this.

Nothing is so easy as to descant on a politic plan, if abstracted from general views, and suited to any particular way of thinking,

thinking, which a perſon has adopted; for in the theory of the mind, every thing is demonſtrable, and error itſelf is not without its geometry.

This author enters on a long winded diſplay of the ways for ſaving the nation's blood and caſh, and purſues his train of ideas without looking before or behind. He is ſo taken up with his plan as not to withdraw his eye a moment from it, to obſerve that France, England, and the Houſe of Auſtria, are ſo nearly concerned in the weight, which one of them might throw into the ballance of Europe, that if one fights the other muſt neceſſarily be alſo fighting; ſo that as things ſtand at preſent, ſhould France declare war againſt hell, Great-Britain muſt ſide with the demons againſt her, to prevent that crown from gaining any advantages in this Tartarean war, &c.

This book of remarks has, however, one great beauty; that is, it does not ſpare the government, which, in party-books, is always counted a capital perfection.

This pamphlet re-minds me of a tranſaction of which I myſelf was a witneſs a few days ago, in a bookſeller's ſhop,

between

between him and an English lord, an anti-courtier.

The latter asked, for some good piece on the present politics. I hope this will please your lordship, said the bookseller: the nobleman opened it, and casting an eye on the title page, pshah, cried he, shutting it hastily, that's trash, I have read it; it is quite intolerable, for the author would prove that we have a minister who understands something of political and civil government.

Since your lordship does not like that, will you be pleased to look into this;— my lord opened it, and within a minute or two shut it again, as he had the former; saying, this is no better than the other, the scribbler is of neither side; and amidst all our divisions affects to stand neuter; he has not spirit enough even to be of any party; so that any production of his I am sure must be very dull and phlegmatic: for nothing can be more insipid than an English political pamphlet, where the pen is not animated by passion or rancour; as if, added he, we were void of wit and spirit, unless stimulated by the demon of cabal.

If that be the caſe, continued the bookſeller, I know what will ſuit your lordſhip; there's the very thing: the author ſays point blank, that our government is all in the wrong, and in order that the public may be aſſured of the excellency of his work, he adds, that the miniſtry have not a grain of common ſenſe among them all.

By what you ſay it muſt be a good piece. If the author has but taken care to exaggerate facts, and impoſe on his readers by artful colourings, I do not know but it may be a work of great merit. Set it down in my account.

LETTER XXIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

THE miniſters of ſtate in England are not ſo buſied as thoſe in France; they have their intervals of reſt, and ſometimes the nature of the government allows them ſo much leiſure, as to have nothing to do; they can haunt play-houſes, viſit women, and every day kill three

three or four hours in company, the public adminiſtration ſtill going on its courſe. Were they not infected with the diſtemper ſo uſual in placemen, of ſeeming to be overwhelmed with buſineſs, they would have little or no buſineſs.

They have indeed their offices, ſecretaries, and clerks, like thoſe of Verſailles: but all this is only by way of form and decorum; for without all this appendage they would not think themſelves miniſters.

To make themſelves appear of importance, and neceſſary to the ſtate, they are obliged to ſubſtitute court formalities inſtead of the more arduous and weighty functions of the miniſtry; theſe the parliament takes into its own hands, and, of courſe the others have little concern in them.

The ſecretaries of ſtate in England are, properly ſpeaking, no more than the crown's firſt clerks, or, according to a phraſe uſed here, the drudges of the court: inſtead of ordering any thing of themſelves they are but ſecond in command. A miniſter of France may be compared

compared to a Turkifh pafha, and an Englifh fecretary of ftate to a doge at Venice.

They are appointed by the fovereign, but as this appointment requires confirmation, and it does not always happen that the minifters who pleafe the king are liked by the people, they are often obliged to quit their poft. Accordingly, their chief ftudy is popularity, which ufually makes dangerous men; becaufe a minifter who ftoops to court a blind populace, whom otherwife he defpifes, and that purely to keep his place, drives at independance and abfolute authority; for, after all, minifters here, as elfewhere, have a ftrong propenfity to defpotifm. Scarce are they well feated in the faddle, than they are for maftering court, parliament, and people.

LETTER XXIV.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* London.

Avignon.

THE better ſort of people at Avignon form two claſſes only, the ſword and the long robe. Yeſterday a perſon, with whom I had contracted ſome acquaintance at my arrival here, carried me into a company of the firſt kind.

The lady where we are going, ſaid he, by the way, bears the name of that celebrated fountain* ſo harmoniouſly immortalized by an Italian poet, named Petrarch. On my entrance into the aſſembly, I thought myſelf in the moſt reſpectable place on earth. Objects of veneration met my eyes on all ſides; a ſcore of women loaded with years, ribbons and *rouge*, made one half of the company. Sir, ſaid I, to my introducer, by what I ſee this ſame Avignon is a charming place, for life ſeems here extended beyond its uſual length; bleſs me, continued I, theſe women are everlaſting! certainly they muſt have been overlooked at the deluge! there

* Vaucluſe.

there is no need of going to the capital of Italy to ſee antiquities, for here are works prior to the Romans.

But ſo much for old women. I have heard ſay this houſe is very famous abroad: famous! continued he, it is talked of in all parts of the world, and not without reaſon, for it is the oldeſt gaming houſe now in Europe. All the others have been aboliſhed by the ordinances of the kings, or come to nothing by that diſpoſition of ſecond cauſes which overthrows the beſt foundations: but this has weathered all dangers and difficulties; though with this bad conſequence, that its duration has occaſioned ſuch repeated ſtrokes of ill-luck, as have utterly ruined the beſt families in the town; for in the ſpace of thirty years, lanſquenet makes terrible havock.

And it is not Avignon alone that has felt its baneful influence, it has reached the contiguous kingdom; there, added he, pointing to a large table, is fortune's altar, where France has very often ſacrificed, and it is very ſeldom that it is not obliged to pay the miniſtering prieſts the charges of the temple.

Methinks

Methinks, ſaid I, interrupting him, the lady of the houſe, with her fine name, carrys on but a ſcandalous trade; paugh, replied he, every one muſt mind the main chance.

Pray, ſir, who is that lady at the quadrille table facing us, with ſo many patches, ribbons, and wrinkles? That, anſwered he, is the dutcheſs de Cr-il-on; ſhe is very old, ſaid I; not ſo very old, ſhe is not a hundred till next May, and that is what we here call the ladies middle age: if ſo, ſaid I, you never ſee them grow old, as naturally they muſt all die in their middle age.

Who is that at the ſame table oppoſite her, but not ſo far down the hill. Oh! ſhe is but young; if ſixty it is the moſt.

Pray, ſaid I, have your ladies no intrigues before they are young? yes, yes, otherwiſe they could not grow old; moſt of them at that rate would die in their childhood.

Who is that lady yonder with no bad eyes; that is the Viſcounteſs Te-ſ-n, ſhe had given over all thoughts of love, when an old officer of the horſe guards, who is retired to Avignon, reminded her of it. The old man courted, and the

lady

lady refifted; but the veteran pufhing the fiege, the vifcountefs furrendered.

Who is that little lump of fat left alone in the corner of the room?—Why that is no other than the reigning princefs, the fultana of the palace. She has but a thin court, faid I, for a fovereign. The reafon of that is, there is not a foul who does not heartily defpife her. When a woman, added he, has run great lengths in flagrant debauchery, whatever rank fhe may afterwards rife to, contempt and indignation continue the fame: this creature has proftituted herfelf to fo many of her fubjects before fhe came to be queen, that not the throne itfelf has been able to protect her from declared contempt.

Who, continues I, is that tall lady, fomething advanced in years, fitting next to her. She is another palace-fultana, but of the former feraglio; that is, of the laft prince's bed-chamber. Her reign, like her lewdnefs, was of a long continuance; but now fhe has formally given herfelf up to devotion; for the faying at Avignon is, *his excellency the Vice Legate firft, and then God.* It is only to her intimates

timates that she whispers, it is all but grimace.

Be so kind, sir, as to inform me whether your sultanas of the former and new seraglios have no husbands? yes, yes, they have husbands, otherwise our vice legates would have nothing to say to them; for here, as in other parts, adultery seems to give a poignancy to debauchery. It is the taste of the great European monarchs, which petty princes to be sure will imitate.

LETTER XXV.

The Mandarin Cham pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-se, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE English women are handsomer than the French, but the French are prettier.

In France there is no quitting the sex; in England one is soon tired of them. The cause of this is, a pretty woman shews herself in a thousand lights, whereas she that is only handsome has but one; and women who have only one side to shew, however

however beautiful, may take it for granted they will not pleaſe long.

The Engliſh face is generally void of expreſſion: almoſt all the charms one ſees here are half dead. The beauty of Engliſh women appears as giving up the ghoſt. A cold inactive nature feels only the natural wants of the Machine. Thou wilt readily imagine that little vivacity of paſſion can dwell in ſuch frigid hearts.

The ladies in England, however, will contend with each other for the empire of beauty, and endeavour to win the hearts of men. This is the ſex's univerſal inſtinct, without exception of climate, country, or rank.

The intrigues of gallantry are generally founded on ſelf-love. Here the two ſexes carry on an intercourſe out of vanity, and love each other from oſtentation, without the ſenſes or paſſions knowing any thing of the matter.

Yet has this rule its exceptions: the Engliſh ladies begin to perceive the diſadvantage of being only handſome, and leave no means unpractiſed to become pretty.

The greater part form a temper to themſelves, and affect vivacity; but this aſſumed

assumed nature is as distant from the former, as from south to north.

I fancy there must be a deal to do before the English women can be brought to be as sprightly and gay as the French. I don't know whether it might not be necessary to abolish the present manners and usages; and even whether the system of government must not undergo some little alteration; for in Great-Britain politics intermix with every thing.

LETTER XXVI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE throne of Great-Britain is now filled by George IIId. who was proclaimed the very day after the death of his predecessor. He is the grandson, and not the son of George IId. His father, a prince of great and amiable qualities, died some years ago. The king now reigning is in his twenty-fourth year, and of a very engaging presence.

Though at an age when all the other European sovereigns are on the decline, he

he is ſtill young. He has not worn himſelf with hunting, feaſting, and women; ſo that he is quite freſh and hale.

He, at firſt was qualified to be a king. Others are practiſers at it a long time; but he was ſo at firſt. There is no appearance of George the IId. being dead; affairs go on as if the crown was ſtill on his head; the like conqueſts and victories; the like meaſures taken for compleating the national grandeur.

This preſent king's marriage is already talked of, and he is unqueſtionably the beſt match in Europe; but it will be no eaſy matter to find a conſort for him; religion and politicks both laying difficulties in the way.

The Engliſh would not like a queen of a family, whoſe great power might enlarge the crown's domain within Europe; for they are more jealous of the ſmallneſs of their ſtate, than of the largeneſs of others. One would think that they had calculated the length, breadth, and depth of their force, and that the iſle of Great-Britain is exactly the meaſure of their power.

All the changes at court have been only ſuch as were of courſe. They

who had paid their court to the grandson of George the IId. have been promoted: the king has discharged the prince of Wales's debts.

The favourite slave, who had an ascendency over George the IId. left the court and retired to a private house, where she is left in the quiet enjoyment of her fortune; as indeed, here, the law secures it to her. In France no sooner is the king laid in his grave, than his mistress buries herself in a retreat, or is exiled. In England she may dispose of herself as she pleases.

LETTER XXVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-se *at* Pekin.

London.

HOWEVER necessary a native pilot may be at Paris, there is still more need of one at London; company here being more dangerous and the rocks and sands less in sight. I was going to advertise for such a one in the public papers, when being lately at the Smyrna Coffee-house good

good fortune threw one in my way, and I could not have wiſhed for a better.

He is a baronet, of an ancient Engliſh family, a very ſerviceable friend to foreigners, and fond of every thing which comes from afar. He no ſooner knew that I was of China than he met me above half way.

This gentleman is about fifty years of age, tall, with an agreeable perſon, and being of a freſh complexion, it is not immediately perceived that he is ſomething worn. He has ſpent the greater part of his life in reading and ſtudying the human mind, which he calls nature's riddle. Early in his youth he viſited moſt of the chriſtian courts. He travelled over ſome part of Aſia, and had likewiſe ſeen a great deal of America.

There is ſcarce a government in Europe whoſe conſtitution he is not well acquainted with. He is alſo well verſed in the ſenſe and purpoſe of laws. He has told me that for a conſiderable time he had cloſely applied himſelf to the ſpeculative ſciences, till, after all his attainments, finding that they rather diſturbed than ſatisfied the mind, he laid them aſide.

But above all things mathematicks are his averſion, ſo that he can ſcarce bear to hear the word. What occaſioned this diſlike was, that after following that ſcience thirty years, a curve, which he cannot define, had very near turned his brain.

His chief ſtudy has lately been the hiſtory of his nation, and eſpecially that of London, with which he is perfectly acquainted.

In this branch of knowledge he is ſo ready as eaſily to recollect all the anecdotes of Gallantry in both court and city, from the end of George the Iſt's reign to the beginning of that of George the IIId. the ſpace of above thirty years. He inſtantly tells you the very time when any lady reſpected for her ſuppoſed virtue committed an indiſcretion which blaſted her reputation. Likewiſe, when a young miſs, reckoned ſomething of a ſimpleton, evidenced to her bridegroom that ſhe was no novice in love.

He has a neat and preciſe manner of expreſſing himſelf, with a good ſhare of wit and imagination, and ſtill more good ſenſe; but withall there is a kind of oddity and caprice in his temper. He is likewiſe

likewise subject to the naturaal indisposition of this country. Since we became acquainted, he has owned to me, that he has often been inclined to make away with himself, but that, when near putting his design in execution, he had found, after maturally weighing things on both sides, that living or dying was in itself a thing so very indifferent, that it was not worth a man's while to give himself the trouble of putting an end to his life. At present, when the hanging fit comes on him, he takes his horse and gallops for two or three hours in Hyde-park. But he has lately found another preservative, and which, he says, is still better: this is drinking two Bottles of Pontac; and on account of its excellent success with him, he has given it the name of, *The English specific against suicide.*

He is not a downright atheist, for he almost believes a Providence; and I have heard him say, that it is not impossible but that there may be a God: though in this point he is not thoroughly settled.

He will prove geometrically that religions have been invented purely for keeping up political and civil order, and

that from them all virtues arise, though there is no virtue in them. Accordingly an atheist, with him, is an execrable creature, not to be tolerated in society. He farther maintains, that every man should believe in some religion, whatever it be.

His knowledge being very extensive, and as he has both seen and read a great deal, his friends were often putting him on being a member of parliament; but his constant answer has been, that he would never make one in a body, where the art of speaking goes farther than reason; and where elocution almost ever gets the better of truth. Sometimes he added, that a speaker with a comely presence, fine teeth, a sonorous voice, can bring over the whole parliament of England to his opinion, and rule the house of commons.

Having in his youth been inclined to debauchery, he still goes on in the same course, from a principle of health. A too strict sobriety he holds to be a slow poison, undermining the constitution; and that a little excess is an antidote against growing weary of life, which uniformity renders an insupportable burden.

den. Accordingly once a week he visits *Covent-garden**; and regularly gets drunk twice a month at the *Bedford-arms*. This he calls winding up the machine.

Having no business, and being free from all domestic care and troubles, all he minds is to keep himself in good spirits, chearful and facetious. He is not known to have either lawsuit, wife, or child. He never would listen to marriage, not from any aversion to the sex, but because an everlasting wife, as he expresses himself, is haughty and arrogant, and of course makes marriage a most bitter curse.

He has an estate of four thousand pounds sterling a year: it would have been six thousand, but for a whim, which took him on his father's death, to go and measure the great pyramid of Egypt. He often talks to me of that peregrination, which deprived him of one third of his fortune; and says, on this head, that had it not been for a king of Egypt, who lived two thousand years ago, instead of only three horses in his stable, he should have six, and four ser-

* A part of London noted for bawdy houses.

vants more, besides two bottles of claret more at his meals, than his estate will now allow him.

LETTER XXVIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

HERE are are a set of men called Am—b—rs, who, though charged with the interest of crowns, are such loungers, that one would think their only business was to have nothing to do.

If you take a morning's airing in Hyde-park, you surely meet with them on their prancing horses; and at noon you see them every where on foot walking the streets. From two o'clock till four, they regularly figure in St. James's park. Ranelagh and Vauxhall seldom fail of their presence. They are fond of sitting in the first rank of the front boxes at Drury-lane and Covent-garden, and are great benefactors to the Italian operas in the Hay-market. They never miss a public concert or assembly. In a word, they are every where, except in their closets.

closets. I am not personally acquainted with them; and had I not been told, should never have taken them for what they are.

One of them is a kind of everlasting Envoy. He came to London after the deluge; and probably the end of the world will come before he leaves England. He is as old as Saturn; yet with his powder and musk, you would not take him to be turned of forty. He has such a gravity in his mien, and is of such a starched carriage, that for thirty years past he has not discomposed a single hair of his wig. Then he is a vast negotiator; there being scarce a woman of the town with whom he has not had a treaty.

I have been shewn a second, who is always as if his mind was in a scuffle; he is ever in a brown study, full of thought, as if the whole weight of Europe lay on him. You see the minister in him even at the play. They however who are best acquainted with him, give him out to be a man of considerable parts and knowledge: but what signify his abilities at a court, where his whole business is to settle subsidies, that is, to

receive and remit money. Hands alone will do that, without any capacity.

I have been aſſured that ſome of this claſs are very ſenſible, intelligent perſons; may be ſo; but this I am certain of, that there are ſome who appear to be very ſilly fellows. Eſpecially I meet in all public places one of a moſt unpromiſſing look; I don't know a face more vicious, and which has leſs of the gentleman in it.

I could not forbear taking notice of another, who, I was told, came from Guadalupe, the ſugar country, and in uglineſs exceeds all the others; being a kind of man-monkey: Such figures indeed could come only from the American ſavages.

Chriſtian princes ſeem to want a proper delicacy in the choice of their repreſentatives at foreign courts.

It is a kind of diſgrace to crowns to commit their intereſt to men who have no manner of reſemblance to thoſe who wear them. If an ambaſſador be but a copy; ſtill a copy ſhould bear ſome likeneſs to the original.

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LETTER XXIX.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Avignon.

IN my laſt, I gave thee an account of my firſt introduction among the Avignon nobleſſe. The next day we went to the ſame aſſembly, where we found nearly the ſame company.

Pray, Sir, ſaid I to my conductor, who is that old fellow ſo powdered and ſcented, and acting the fop to that young lady before us? That's one of our marquiſſes, bearing the title and name of an eſtate which no longer belongs to him. He is as old as time, and battered accordingly. There goes a jeſt on him at Avignon, that he was born in pope John the twenty-ſecond's time, and was preſent at the building of the papal palace; yet is he always fluttering about the women. Every morning his toilet takes him up two hours, in repairing the injuries of age; and he tricks himſelf out like an old woman. But all his artifices are threadbare; his wrinkles baffle his

dreſſer, and ſhew him to be an arrant cheat.

And that tall perſonage a little round ſhouldered, with a bag-wig, though little ſuitable to his age.

That, anſwered he, is a conſul; his hobby-horſe is the kard; and no ſooner has he quitted that employment, than he would fain be in it again: probably it turned to good account. Had this man lived in the time of the Romans, who will might have been Cæſar for him; he would have ſtood only for the conſulſhip. He is reckoned here very ſkilful in calculations, and even to have ſome acquaintance with geometry and other ſciences. I have tried him two or three times on theſe matters, but he appears of too ſuperficial a turn. He is however of a family as ancient as Moſes *.

That gentleman, continued I, of a very ordinary appearance, yet with a mark of diſtinction at his button-hole? That is a knight of Malta, who lives ſomewhere in the neighbourhood of the city. He has ſomething very impertinent in his looks, ſaid I, and more impertinent in his ways, replied he. He is

* A Jewiſh family.

the

the most insipid, and at the same time the most assuming animal on the face of the earth. His pride and emptiness make him a perfect nuisance. A design is laid to beggar him in one night's play; as the only way for ridding Avignon of such a troublesome guest.

Pray do you know those two gentlemen facing us, so full of their jests with everybody? They are two brothers; of the name of —— their character, in a word, is this: One is a sot, the other a coxcomb. And that bulky old gentleman, who affects to conceal his age, toying and playing with them like a young fellow? By his looks, I should take him for the eldest brother. Very right, answered my guide, he is indeed eldest; for he is their father.

Who is that young man at yonder quadrille-table, with something wild in his looks, and paralytic hands; one would think he was just come from some depredation in the neighbouring forest. It is the marquis de For—ta of Provence: a bad man; he is charged with a murder in his town; and on that account has withdrawn hither. The matter is before the parliament of Aix; but however

ever it goes with him, it will be the ſame thing to his character; for every one does him the juſtice to believe, that if he did not murder the man, he is capable of doing ſo. He is a gameſter by profeſſion, and very adroit at cheating.

Who, continued I, is that little man juſt by us, of ſuch a ſtiff appearance? He is called the viſcount, and may be ſaid to be a fop of an old edition never corrected; being full of errors and defects. He was formerly very petulant, but has been humbled by a woman's giving him a ſevere drubbing.

Who is that tall young man ſpeaking to him, who ſeems ſo very much pleaſed with himſelf? That is our archbiſhop's grand nephew; he affects both wit and ſenſibility, ſets up for a fine ſpeaker, talks purely to be heard, culls his words and expreſſions; and accompanies the whole with ſomething ſo very odd in his perſon and carriage, as to render him ſuperlatively ridiculous.

Who is that knight of St. Lewis ſtanding by him? his uncle, a ſower, moroſe man, from morning to night continually ſpitting ſlander; he alone is enough to ruin the reputation of a whole town,

town, and ſet a ſociety together by the ears; yet would he be accounted a man of probity; though, at play, he is a little apt to put in practice ſome not very warrantable dexterities.

Oh! pray, who is that ſhort fattiſh man thruſting himſelf into all the companies, and ſpeaking to every body? Why he is the marquis de Mont-p-ſ-t, a ſort of knight errant, lately come hither to make the moſt of his accute talents for buſineſs. Moſt perſons of quality run in debt, follow gaming, or keep miſtreſſes; but this worthy perſons deals in law ſuits, which he brings to an iſſue by his importunity with the judges. He is indefatigable in buſineſs; making no more of galloping away to Rome or Paris, than another would to take a walk. The generality of men are quite miſplaced; this marquis was cut out for a poſtillion.

Only one queſtion more, ſaid I to my guide; for I would not be too troubleſome. Who is that diminitive grey-haired knight, peering every where, and his face ſomething of the bat? That, anſwered he, is a little Malteſe ſhrimp, whom the order ſeems to have forgotten; becauſe

because, in reality, he has not wherewith to do honour to the order. He is conceited and proud to the last degree, withall very poor and ignorant; in short, he is a true Avignon gentleman.

LETTER XXX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THIS vast city may be said to contain two nations, the inhabitants of what is called the city, and those who live at the court end of the town; their manners are so diametrically opposite, that the division which separates these two people may be considered as a vast ocean, making an immense difference between them.

The Englishman, born about Lombard-street, seems to be of quite another species from him who lives near St. James's square. When the latter has a mind to divert himself with the representation of a silly fellow, he gets the *citizen** to be acted.

* A play of that name.

Indeed

Indeed every thing in him is totally different; his way of ſpeaking, expreſſions, dreſs, the very gratifications of his taſtes, deſires, and appetites. The citizen is a coarſe, dull, heavy creature, without vivacity or fancy, aukward in common converſation, and continually abſorbed in calculations of ſums. Whereas the Briton, living near the park, has a pretty manner of ſpeaking, expreſſes himſelf with eaſe, and even has his repartees. His contempt of riches he carries to profuſeneſs, and this makes him deſpiſe the citizen, whoſe life and ſoul is lucre. But the latter takes care to be even with him, when he comes to him on 'change, to help him to a ſupply for his extravagancies. The citizen inflated with his bills of exchange and ſhares in the ſtocks, looks coldly on him, anſwers him only in monoſyllables, or tells him he has no time to ſpeak to him. But the courtier, as he cannot do without him, diſguiſes himſelf on this occaſion, and affects all his ways. Money, which at the Smyrna coffee-houſe puts an end to the level, reſtores it at Toms. All within this precinct, during change time, and while buſineſs can be done, are alike, birds

birds of a feather. It is not till two hours after that every one puts on his real character again. The inhabitant of St. James's, as soon as he is got beyond Temple-bar, in his return, re-assumes his court air, which he had left there as a pledge at his setting foot into the city; and the merchant having done with accounts and brokers, again becomes aukward, dull, and slovenly.

LETTER XXXI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

YOU can scarce walk in London streets without being beaten, and if you go in a coach it is putting yourself on the rack; if on foot you are hustled to and fro; if in a carriage you are insupportably jolted. As I had rather be be hustled than jolted, I mingle in the crowd and stand the shock.

I never go to my banker, who lives full three miles from my lodging, but with an aching heart. It is but t'other day that I went to him for fifty guineas, and

and, I am ſure, before I had got thither, as many blows were given me. Did the people know that I was a Chineſe I ſhould perhaps meet with better uſage; but the misfortune is, that though my eyes are ſufficiently ſmall, I am thought to be a Frenchman, and as ſuch I get many a ſevere thump. It is hard that an Aſiatic ſhould ſuffer for the hatred of two European nations.

In other countries, fighting is only the ſoldier's part; but here, every one will be fighting. No longer ago than yeſterday, as I was going along a ſtreet, called, the Strand, a bulky Engliſhman, paſſing by me, gave me ſuch a blow with his fiſt as made me reel, at the ſame time calling me, *French dog*. I would very willingly have given him my receipt for it to have been clear from a repetition; but being too much ſtunned to walk off, he laid on a ſecond blow, adding, *get out of my way you dirty fellow*.

All Europe is in ſome meaſure a ſufferer by the animoſity between theſe two nations. I daily ſee Germans, Italians, Portugueſe, and Spaniards, who being taken for Frenchmen, undergo the like

like rugged treatment as I who am a Chinese.

Indeed, on my complaining of any insult, the nation's duel, which is the fighting hand to hand, is very readily offered; but for my part, I choose patiently to bear a blow or two, rather than have my face beat to mummy, if not an eye knocked out, or a limb broken or dislocated.

LETTER XXXII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

I Had seen Englishmen in France, and I see them at London, but actually they are not the same men; or rather, the difference is such that they seem quite another species. At Paris they are open and polite, and with such chearfulness and good nature that there cannot be better company; but at London they are silent, gloomy, and sullen, scarce conversable; as if, on their landing all their amiable qualities forsake them, and they again become Englishmen all over.

Though

Though four hours bring you from one nation to the other, yet naturalists hold, that the Calais sprightliness is six thousand leagues distant from that of Dover. The inhabitants of the two opposite poles are not more different in temper.

I cannot think this proceeds from the climate: so great a contrariety cannot be owing to such a narrow separation. It is only at a considerable distance of degrees that the climate has any such influences; and astronomers make little or no difference between the sun in France and that in England. The English indeed hang themselves, and the French do not; but it is not the effect of the air that the Britons hang or drown themselves. The cause of these unnatural freaks I think lies in the political system.

Sociability and politeness are a consequence of absolute government. In France despotism runs through all classes. Every subject who is above another in rank and riches is a kind of king to his inferior, who naturally makes himself his slave. Hence in general arise considerations, formalities, respects, distinction, complaisance, and submission.

France

France may be looked on as community of courtiers, in ſome reſpects monarchs, and in others ſubjects. This concatenation of deſpotiſm, reaching from the meaneſt ſubject of the monarchy to the greateſt, is the ſource of that politeneſs which is ſo natural to the French; courtiers being every where ſupple and inſinuating.

When the Roman conſtitution was in its vigour, the people were open and ſincere, ſtrangers to any ſtudied marks of reſpect; but on their being brought into ſubjection by the emperors, they became polite, ſmooth, courteous, and deceitful.

The Britons being free and independant have no need of French gayety; their political ſyſtem diſpenſes them from it, as having provided for the eaſe of all orders. Every Engliſhman may be of what temper he pleaſes, without minding that of others.

LETTER XXXIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

SINCE the late king's death the court has taken a pacific turn; already a congreſs, indemnification, and a ſuſpenſion of arms begin to be talked of; all the ſyſtems of war ſeem to have been buried with him. This is the caſe of the Europeans, their fate generally depends on the life of one man. Did George the IId. reign, the war would go on; but becauſe George the IIId. fills the throne, there will be a peace. And it is not one of the leaſt reaſons for a ſovereign to put an end to battles, that his predeceſſor began them. A monarch would ſcarce think himſelf a king, ſhould he follow the former plans: he would imagine that the world would believe his predeceſſor to be ſtill living, and himſelf only a mock-king. To ſuppreſs any ſuch opinion of him, the former ſyſtems, which have coſt ſo much blood muſt be aboliſhed, and others ſet on foot different from

from the former, but not leſs detrimental to the nation.

I am far from meaning that a ſtate of war is preferable to that of peace; but only, that there are particular caſes when a government having made large acquiſions of wealth and ſubjects, is under a neceſſity of compleating the work of ſieges and battles; otherwiſe, a treaty of peace would coſt it all the fruit of its victories.

What I am now ſaying is not levelled at England: there is no determining whether the peace will be of greater loſs or gain to it, without being thoroughly acquainted with its reſources, examining its finances, comparing the ſtate of its forces by ſea and land; eſpecially without knowing aſſuredly, whether the taxes, which it would be obliged to lay on its ſubjects for the extraordinary expences of the war, would not hurt it more than ten victories would do it good: and herein the people's word is not to be taken, as in theſe things they always judge wrong; every one forming his notions according to his private concerns.

LETTER XXXIV.

The Mandarin Ni-o-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Avignon.

THE ſame perſon who had introduced me into an aſſembly of the nobility, two days ago, carried me to that of the gentlemen of the long robe. He had no ſooner ſent in word, than the maſter came to receive us at the door of the apartment, preſented me to the company, and, after ſhewing me many civilities, placed us in a very convenient part of the room. This gentleman is perfectly polite, ſaid I, to my guide; and he is ſtill more amiable, added he. Were you to make any ſtay at Avignon you would be quite charmed with him; he has very much of the gentleman in all his ways, a free air, and engaging manner of ſpeaking; but this, if I may uſe the expreſſion, is only the mechanic part of his merit: he has a large ſhare of genius and erudition; and, beſides his being a very great lawyer, he, on all occaſions, talks with much

propriety, wit, and penetration: he is equally the good man, and the agreeable companion. He performs the honours of the city incomparably; for besides holding an aſſembly twice a week at his houſe, when any prince or great perſonage makes makes ſome ſtay at Avignon, he never fails entertaining them with much ſplendor and delicacy of taſte.

Such was the picture my guide gave me of this gentleman, and indeed I diſcerned the truth of it in his features and lineaments; for there are ſpeaking phyſiognomies.

We were aſked to play, but I choſe rather to converſe with my guide.

The parties being made, and all ſeated about the tables, ſir, ſaid I, you ſee I am a perfect ſtranger here: will you be ſo good as to give me ſome knowledge of this new world. Very readily, anſwered he, and that I can the better do, as, excuſe the expreſſion, I am a free-maſon here, and have the ſecret of the lodge; ſo that you need only ſpeak and let me know with whom you are for beginning.

Pray then, who is that young lady at the table facing us, with regular features, ſomething very pretty in her countenance

tenance, and her eyes not the worſt part of her? She is a ſtranger, anſwered he, born in Provence, and has married that little man you ſee behind her.

So agreeable a perſon, replied I, muſt have many adorers: to be ſure, ſaid he, ſhe might, but ſhe declines it; ſhe has taken it into her head to love her huſband, which is not common at Avignon, as they do not marry for any ſuch thing; and perhaps it is from its not being common, that ſhe loves him; for women are ever for doing what is out of the way.

Who is that other young woman near her, with a long viſage, black eyes, and affecting childiſhneſs, and yet ſeems to have ſomething languiſhing about her? why that is another, who is likewiſe nothing common: ſhe too loves her huſband; at leaſt in appearance; indeed no body offers to hinder her, moſt of the men looking on her as a ridiculous affected creature.

Who is that third on our right hand, with a round face, a delicate complexion, but an ill made mouth; is ſhe likewiſe for rarities? no, no, anſwered he haſtily, her huſband is not ſo much a rarity

in her houſe as ſhe could wiſh; were he oftener abroad, ſhe might the more freely enjoy her gallant.

Bleſs me! ſaid I, who is that very old woman, looking ſo wiſhfully at that ſuperanuated ſignior at yonder table, with a bag wig, and tricked up like a young ſpark; they ogle one another with ſuch grimaces, that, I wonder they who are with them can keep their countenance? why, ſaid he, that's a widow and an old batchelor, who make themſelves the town talk: they are ſaid to be married together, however that be, they live as if they were.

And pray, who is that virago, who both looks and talks like ſome vulgarman. She ſeems to inſult a pretty perſonable young man, who is playing with her, and whom ſhe is ever thwarting? right, anſwered he, ſhe does ſeem; but, in amours, when all the world ſees a woman pretending to diſdain a man, it is a certain proof that ſhe loves him.

Be ſo kind as to tell me who is that tall, ſlim, long waiſted woman, whoſe head is like a dot over an i? ſhe is, to be plain, ſaid he, an abandoned creature. Here, indeed, ſhe is reckoned to have ſome delicacy; having had but five or ſix gallants

lants in her life; and, at laſt, has taken up with a ſhallow ſmock-faced young fribble, with whom ſhe lives, badly enough; but as gallantry muſt have ſome amuſement, they work tapeſtry to-together, and are now at the twelfth chair.

Pleaſe to tell me, who is that brown, long viſaged woman, with black eyes, fine teeth, and a pretty mouth, and continually looking at us? ſhe, anſwered he, is no better than the former; when a girl, ſhe was for the firſt comer; now ſhe is a woman, firſt or laſt is the ſame thing to her; court or country, gentle or ſimple, are welcome; though ſhe ſeems to lean moſt towards the Finances. If, like the princeſs of Egypt we are told of, ſhe had demanded a ſtone from every one of her gallants, ſhe might by this time have built a pyramid reaching to the ſeventh heaven.

Who is that young perſon ſitting behind her, and tolerably pretty? ſhe is her ſiſter, ſetting up for marriage; fond of the gentlemen of the long robe, but, in the mean time, keeping company with thoſe of the army: whoever marries that girl, marries a woman.

But how come such creatures to be admitted here, said I? What can be done, replied he; were all women to undergo an examination, and the virtuous only to be admitted, the master of the house might soon shut up shop.

Sir, said I to him, who are all these men, some standing and some sitting, most of them in black? they, answered he, are lawyers: a large pack of them, replied I, sure you must be very fond of going to law here, to employ so many. We have, perhaps, fewer suits than other places like this; for we are, really, too poor to bribe judges and counsellors. Here it is no more than a title assumed to make one self a gentleman at once. Most of those counsellors could not set you right in a point of law, if you would give them the whole world; and many of them, I believe, do not so much as know that there is a code, or that such a man as Justinian ever existed. When a plebeian is for rising above his origin, he takes degrees, and makes himself an honorary counsellor, which lifts him to a precedence, next to the nobility. For this there is a set rate; a hundred crowns is the sum: that is not so dear, said I, there's

there's no being a coxcomb much cheaper. I am only concerned for their incapacity, as they who lay out their money to buy the knowledge of their vocation, muſt be very great ignoramus's: they ignoramus's, replied he, why they know every thing! talk to them of politicks, finances, government, adminiſtration, and then you'll ſee their abilities. Politicks eſpecially is their maſter-piece; here they ſhine moſt, and diſplay their ignorance with the greateſt fluency.

LETTER XXXV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

AT Paris there are more theatres and plays than at London, but London has the moſt ſcenes and actors.

In other European countries the vices are repreſented at large, here in detail: the human heart is as it were taken to pieces.

The play wrights repreſent nature in all its ſhapes, even the moſt deformed and ſhocking.

The practices of prisons, the horrors of goals, the brutish talk of beerhouses, the ribaldry of brothels, make a part of the English exhibitions.

The characters of any of their plays are highwaymen, beggars, vagrants, publicans, and the like.

The reason here given for this is, that the stage is the mirror of human life; but is it therefore to be soiled? a sick person on his close-stool, a leper opening his ulcers, a spewing sot, a prostitute shewing indecent postures, are likewise pictures of human life: but are they therefore to be made a sight of?

Civil society has its sinks, or, if I may be allowed the expression, its excrements, which, when stirred, emit very noisome effluvia.

Besides, these characters are of no manner of use to the moral world; they, who are represented in them, being seldom or never at these repesentations; and if they were, these pictures would make no manner of impression on them. The populace are hardened in profligacy beyond amendment; their life is a round of labour, sottishness, and brutality.

But

But it having been thought that there would be too great a ſameneſs, or perhaps that the ſtage would be too trivial, if only cheats and footmen wêre exhibited, heroes and kings have been intermixed; ſo that the ſpectator, after the pleaſing view of a ſplendid palace, on a ſudden finds himſelf in a cobler's ſtall*. The king ſets on his throne, and the ſhoemaker on his ſtool. The former entertains the ſpectator with ſtate affairs, the latter with the circumſtances of his ſhop. The hero is in love, the cobler is a ſot: one reſpectfully courts the queen, the other beats his wife. Nothing can be more contradictory than the tranſactions on this ſtage: the characters have no manner of correſpondence, or ſimilarity.

It is an obſervation of phyſicians, that the ſervants in mad houſes, by hearing unconnected talk, rants, and nonſenſe, at the long run, contract a diſorder of mind. I cannot tell thee whether thoſe who haunt Covent-Garden and Drury-lane turn mad; but, take my word for

* Moſt of the ſerious pieces in England are intermixed with farces.

it, these two theatres are little adapte to make them wise.

LETTER XXXVI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-se, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE English stage, besides being low and trivial is even filthy and obscene. Some days ago I was at the comedy, called, the *Old Batchelor*; but I soon wished myself out of a theatre, so void of all decency and modesty; and I actually made some endeavours to get out, but the crowd was too great; for this piece always draws a full house.

At first I was strangely embarassed for the young ladies, but I soon perceived that I might save myself that uneasiness. Surely modesty must have very much degenerated among the sex in Britain; for some fragments, which may serve as a history of the English stage, inform us, that women, whenever they went to the play used to be masked; and thus it was incognito that they heard the ribaldry uttered there; but now they have laid aside

aſide the maſk, and can hear bawdy bare-faced and without a bluſh, I cannot ſay, without a ſmile.

This is certain, that in no bawdy-houſe, or guard-room, can more filthy obſcenity be talked, or more ſcandalous words ſpoken, than were that night openly pronounced on this ſtage. Farther, the indecency of that comedy is not confined to words; it is even carried to the repreſentation, to the act of debauchery; the crime is almoſt conſummated on the ſtage before the ſpectator, who thus is made to ſtand pimp.

There is no thinking well of a nation which allows of ſuch ſhocking indecencies on its ſtage.

No maturity of age is required to judge of this depravity of taſte. Reaſon in its early dawn perceives its enormity.

After the play, I went to a lady's houſe, who had invited me, and I found ſeveral perſons of both ſexes likewiſe come from the theatre, and who were to ſup there. Among the company was a lady with her daughter, aged about ſeven, and whom ſhe had carried that night to the play for the firſt time. After the uſual

compliments, all ſeated themſelves till ſupper ſhould be ſerved up; and naturally the play or the actors would have been the topic of diſcourſe, but the little girl thus beſpoke her mother.

Mamma, why are there playhouſes and plays at London? My dear, anſwered the mother, it is that people may be good, by thus ſeeing the uglineſs and miſchief of vice: ſo, ſaid the child, that is a charming contrivance; then, mamma, ſuch little girls as I, by often going to the play muſt be very good; ſo, my dear mamma, carry me there very often, for I would alſo be very good; yet, continued ſhe, I have heard ſome words which muſt be very bad; for little Daiſy Smith, who goes to ſchool with me, was lately puniſhed for having ſpoken them, as, *ſon of a bitch*, *ſon of a whore*, *ſon of* — oh! fye, my dear, ſaid the mother, putting on a ſerious countenance, let me hear no ſuch bad words: but, ſaid the child, haſtily interrupting her, ſince theſe words are bad, mamma, why are they ſpoken on the ſtage, if it is deſigned to make people good?

This anſwer of a child, only in her ſeventh year, is a general cenſure of the Engliſh ſtage.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

ENGLAND, beſides being rich and fertile, has a very extenſive commerce; its ſhips are ſeen on all parts of the ocean; its navy makes it reſpected by all the univerſe. Nothing can be better modelled than its conſtitution. Here the citizen is free, and no man a ſlave. The nation is governed by laws of its own making, and its affairs are conducted by its repreſentatives. Every private perſon here is a kind of king, and accountable for his actions only to himſelf: yet is there not on earth a more unhappy people, for it is the moſt melancholly. An incurable uneaſineſs has ſeized the nation, ſo that in England, inſtead of living, they only languiſh. Amidſt wealth and plenty they have no enjoyment. All the amuſements, both public and private have a heavy caſt: there

there is no ſprightlineſs in the diverſions, every thing, even mirth itſelf is ſerious: all things wear a gloomy appearance: a kind of ſadneſs prevails even among their pleaſures and entertainments. Gravity has got the aſcendancy, and influences all the ſeveral claſſes of the nation. There are ſome Engliſh families who have not been known to laugh for ten generations.

The greater part of the Britons, unable to get the better of their vexations, hang or drown themſelves. A ſure happineſs indeed, whereby men are led to ſuch a deſperate act as ſuicide! I fancy it may be accounted for. Liberty is productive of a certain uneaſineſs to the mind, from which ſlavery exempts it. A nation under ſlavery has ſomething to think of, which is to break its chains. A free nation has nothing. Now, when the imagination is left to itſelf, uneaſineſs will be working it.

But it will follow from thence, that liberty is an evil; and ſuch I account it, as men make a wrong uſe of every thing. The greater the advantages accruing to them from the political conſtitution, the more wantonly do they abuſe their happineſs.

pineſs. Such freedom is, indeed, the ſtate of perfection; but truly to enjoy it man himſelf muſt be perfect. There's not on the earth a more ſlaviſh government than the Turkiſh, yet none where its misfortune is leſs felt. Of all nations the French is the leaſt free, yet the moſt chearful.

Another cauſe of the atrabilarious humour particulary prevailing among this people, I take to be the kind of drinks uſed in England. The Engliſh, in general, are exceſſively addicted to ſtrong and ſpirituous liquors; and the fumes of theſe aſcending to the brain excite an artificial gaiety, which ſtraining the fibres, bring on them a relaxation, occaſioning a lowneſs of ſpirits. The climate, and other ſecondary cauſes, may likewiſe have a ſhare in this direful effect; for, as a little matter will make a people merry, ſo almoſt any thing will make them dull.

LETTER XXXVIII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* London.

Avignon.

THERE is an inquiſition at Avignon, and, for that very reaſon there are alſo Jews; for theſe are two things which always go together: ſo that I was not at all ſurprized to meet with Jews; but, to find dukes here, is what I little expected.

This title is a kind of honorary favour conferred by the Pope, and the dukes are created by a bull, even as a biſhop; money is the great mobile in both caſes, a ducal patent may be purchaſed without any regard to birth; for as a man may be a biſhop, though not noble, ſo he may be made a duke, without being ſo much as a gentleman.

The court of Rome has been, time out of mind, accuſtomed to create; and having no longer the power of making kings, it creates dukes.

As

As to knights, the Pope alone makes more than all the ſovereigns of Europe put together. Indeed he is pleaſed to rate this title at ſo very moderate a price, that every footman may buy himſelf into that order. The holy father's factors ſell knight-patents at Rome by wholeſale, at a hundred ducats the hundred, it is the ſtated price: yet are there ſovereigns in Europe from whom they may be had ſtill cheaper, being given gratis.

Every thing in theſe wretched countries is corrupted; not only virtue, but even the diſtinguiſhing marks of it.

LETTER XXXIX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

HERE, as in France, the miniſters of ſtate often riſe from nothing. One would thing that, in this particular, the government were totally deſpotic, and like thoſe of Aſia.

At Conſtantinople the ſultan may make a cuſtom-houſe officer grand vizir; at London

London the king may make a ſubaltern officer ſecretary of ſtate; with this difference, however, that it is not always in his power to remove him, his parliament will often declare againſt it: now in this caſe, the prince has a creative but not a conſervatory power; he may make, but not deſtroy.

In France, a woman makes a miniſter of ſtate, here ſomething leſs than a woman will ſuffice; he who has a ſkillful way of opening his mouth, is the man. A member of parliament who is accurate in ſpelling his vowels, can diſtinctly articulate his words, give a cadence to his ſentences, prettily varying his ſounds, ſo as to pleaſe the ear, is in a fair way for the miniſtry. The abſolute monarchs in Europe have female favourites, to whom they refuſe nothing: and the miſtreſs of this republic, to which it grants every thing, is oratory.

I lately aſked an Engliſhman concerning the characteriſtical virtues of the preſent prime miniſter, who is ſaid to preſide over the affairs of this monarchy, with ſo much honour to himſelf, his ſovereign, and nation. He anſwered me, that he was a good relator, and expreſſed

pressed himself handsomely. "He is, "said he, the finest speaker in Europe; "he says whatever he will, and per-"suades the audience to whatever he "intends. Would you, in a political "sense, that it should be broad day at "midnight, or that it should be mid-"night at noon, only speak the word; "it is indifferent to him, he will equally "convince you of both; conviction is "his master-piece; he has ready in his "imagination, a complete set of oppo-"site proofs."

The next day I went to the house of commons, to hear this powerful orator, and found indeed that, according to the European saying, he has a very glib tongue. He was that morning engaged in clearing up a point of political morality, relating to the war in Germany; and a very nice point it was. On his coming into the ministry, he had promised the people, that no troops at all should be sent thither, and of money but a very little: now that day the business of the house turned on sending thither a great number of troops, and large supplies of money. It is amazing to think with what dexterity he brought the house

to

to forget his former promiſe, and perſuaded it not to recollect the many fine ſpeeches he had made on that head. At the very preamble of his harangue I could perceive, by the behaviour of the audience, that he would bring them to his lure, and conviction ſpread with every period of his ſpeech.

It muſt however be obſerved, concerning this houſe, that a great many of its members had been previouſly converted, before they came to hear this miniſter's edifying ſermons.

His ſpeeches are entirely geometrical; for talking he is the moſt ſkilful architect of the age. Sorcerers build palaces in the air, but this miniſter can carry the ſtructure of an argument up to the very clouds, and with all the parliament in it.

Thou mayeſt well think that this nervous ſpeaker has his opponents. All the ſtammerers in the houſe are uſually on the other ſide of the queſtion.

The ancients had a great miſtruſt of oratory as deluſive, they would not ſo much as ſee the orators; theſe were to deliver their ſpeeches in the dark. There there is a certain infatuating power in the

the attitude, countenance, voice, and expreſſion of public ſpeakers, which impoſing on the imagination eaſily captivates the mind.

When once the wiſeſt republic in the world allowed its orators to ſpeak in public from a raiſed place, made for that purpoſe, every thing went wrong with it. To make uſe of the very ſame ways which fallacy practiſes to ſeduce, is diſgracing truth.

LETTER XL.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

OF all the trades which pride and oſtentation has ſet up in this capital, the moſt ridiculous, in my way of thinking is that whoſe buſineſs is to diſplay vanity, and furniſh decorations for the moſt mortifying circumſtance in the whole human life. The maſquerade of burials in England, though different in form from that of France, has the ſame principle.

In my walks about London, I read the following inſcription on a ſign; *funerals performed here in the beſt manner.*

England has undertakers for burials as for marriages; the throwing a carcaſe into a hole is here made a ſpectacle; and the pomp is greater or leſs according to the money given.

That this oſtentation may be the greater, it is generally exhibited by torch light. Inſtead of prieſts and monks, a train of domeſtics, in black, with blazing torches in their hand, march before the corps, which is placed in a fringed vehicle, followed by a number of coaches all covered with black cloth. In this lugubrious parade is the deceaſed conveyed to the place appointed for his rotting.

If any tears are ſhed on theſe occaſions, it is only for not having wherewith to be more ſhowey. Europe has not a nation more expenſive in burials than the Engliſh.

I was, the other day, at an Engliſh gentleman's ſeat, who, after ſhewing me the elegant manſion which he dwells in during his life, likewiſe gave me a ſight of that which is to hold him when dead; I mean the

the coffin in which his body is to reſt at the departure of his ſoul. This coffin here before you, ſaid he, is looked upon as a maſter piece of workmanſhip. The artiſt, as he is a very clever fellow, has contrived to uſe three thouſand gilt nails on it, and diſpoſed them with admirable ſymmetry. Mind thoſe two gilt handles, which are made for letting down my body into the grave. Nicer work cannot be; but that is not all, added he, you muſt ſee how exactly it fits me. Here calling his ſervants, they undreſſed him, and he put himſelf in his ſhroud: ſee ſays he, as he was lying along in it, whether any thing can fit better. My body will lie quite ſnug and cloſe in it, yet without being in the leaſt cramped.

I readily agreed that the proportions of his ſepulchral abode had been very exactly obſerved, and that the whole was a maſter-piece: but, after he had dreſſed himſelf again, I took the liberty to tell him, that it was carrying hoſpitality very far indeed, to provide ſuch a grand receptacle for the worms.

The coffin of every common citizen of London coſts as much as would be a

portion

portion for a poor country girl: how many marriages are thus abſorbed in burials, and what a numerous poſterity are ſecluded from life by the vain ceremonies of mortality.

This oſtentation, I am inclined to think, would be carried much farther, and coffins come to be of ſilver or gold, or at leaſt plated over with theſe metals; but robbers, not ſparing the living, would certainly make free with the dead. Many a body would lie without a coffin, on account of the richneſs of that into which it was firſt put. There is ſcarce making any exact calculation of the workmanſhip buried in the London church-yards, and which, at the very firſt, is loſt to the ſtate; but it muſt amount to an immenſe ſum: and had it been employed in uſefull productions, England would have now been one of the moſt powerful ſtates in the univerſe.

Theſe pompous funerals, in which the low claſſes ape the higher, affect the well being of families. Some want the neceſſaries of life, becauſe ſeveral of their forefathers are no longer living. Their ſubſtance has been buried in the ſame

grave

grave with them. In England the dead may be ſaid to deſtroy the living.

LETTER XLI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

YEſterday I went to Ranelagh: this is a public garden, in which is a vaſt circular ſaloon, terminating in a dome, where, amid a variety of muſick, men and women walk round a large column which ſupports the ſtructure.

The company on entering into this ſpacious ſaloon immediately turn, afterwards return another way; then turn again, till quite tired they throw themſelves on ſeats, contrived in little boxes round the central column.

This tireſome diverſion is not without its allurements, and I believe one of the moſt attractive is, that the men and women continually meet face to face.

Here are admirable foundations, all manifeſting a well-combined plan for the cloſe connection of the two ſexes: it is pity the founders overlooked morality.

London is ſo vaſt a place, that before Ranelagh, there was no ſuch thing as coming together; now meetings are eaſy and certain: this garden however is not accommodated for open proſtitution; here the men and women only ſettle the preliminaries of ſeducement.

The progreſſes of vice, here, are the more ſpreading; this garden being ſuppoſed a place of perfect decency. All the rendezvous are looked on as caſual meetings; and languid and voluptuous airs are introduced under the ſanction of decency. Now this is a more ready way for corrupting a people than bare-faced incontinency.

I ſhould firſt have mentioned another public place of a much longer ſtanding than Ranelagh, called Vauxhall. Here the founder's deſign ſeems to have been more comprehenſive; the very crime may be conſumated among the gloomy walks without fear of detection. And, what is ſtill more, a company may ſpend the whole night in every kind of debauchery.

I queſtion whether the opening of thirty public bawdy-houſes would have done

done more hurt to the morals of the Englifh nation, than the two gardens of Vauxhall and Ranelagh.

LETTER XLII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-fan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Nimes.

IT was our agreement to take notice only of men, and not mind monuments; otherwife I fhould enlarge on the fuperb amphitheatre, the fquare houfe, and the exquifite baths, Roman works, and of two thoufand years ftanding.

The Romans in their buildings feemed to have had an eye to pofterity; whereas the moderns work only for their own time: the ftructures of the latter come to an end almoft as foon as themfelves; but the labours of the former bid fair to laft as long as the world itfelf.

I am loft in admiration when I fee men leaving traces of their actions many ages after they exifted. To be eternal in one's works, is, in fome meafure, to refemble the Deity.

Yet however Nimes may boaſt of ſeveral works of thoſe immortal men; not the leaſt part of their genius is to be ſeen here, the people being all for trades and manufactures. That divine ſpirit of the Romans, after having conquered the earth by its arms, and reached heaven by its works, has, after all, taken up with the bodies of mechanics: ſordid tools, ending with the pride which gave riſe to them. Who would imagine that a people ſo great ſhould ever become ſo mean?

LETTER XLIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

WHether the following be an irony, ridiculing the epidemical fondneſs for news-papers, ſo prevalent in England, or whether the Britons will really extend their curioſity to China, is more than I can ſay. However it was lately brought to me under cover, by a foot-meſſenger, called the penny-poſt.

" Mr.

" Mr. Chineſe,

" IT is by knowledge only that nations
" can enlarge their territories and aug-
" ment their power; now, no people in
" the whole world comes up to us Eng-
" liſhmen for knowledge; the meaneſt
" artificer in London knows the daily
" occurrences of that immenſe city.

" Every morning comes out an hiſto-
" rical journal of our community; not
" a cat is born, nor a dog dies, but the
" publick is informed of it. We know
" every particular of what daily paſſes at
" Paris, at Toulon, at Amſterdam, at
" Hamburgh, at Dantzic and Peterſ-
" burgh, and indeed in all other cities
" in the world worth knowing.

" Turkey and Perſia pay tribute to
" our curioſity; the tranſactions in Af-
" rica are communicated to us. We
" have a daily gazette of America, and
" the events of the Indies are regularly
" publiſhed in our papers. But hitherto
" China has eſcaped our curioſity: not
" that we have loſt ſight of that empire;
" there are many perſons in this city
" who are kept awake, by not having
" any news from Pekin.

"In order to remove this nocturnal "restlessness, a society of gentlemen "having at heart the public welfare, "have agreed to set up a Chinese paper, "under the title of *The Pekin Daily* "*Advertiser*. For this end we have "determined to settle a Chinese corres-"pondence: with a view of obtaining a "daily account of what passes in that "city. And in this our scheme there are "only two small difficulties occur: we "know not a single soul at Pekin, nor "understand a single word of Chinese.'

"To facilitate the execution of our "plan, we applied to the professors of "the Chinese language at Oxford; but "those gentlemen are as much to seek in "it as we ourselves. All they know is to "write a receipt in very good English, "every three months, and receive their "quarter's salary, paid them for culti-"vating a language which they do not "understand. We therefore intreat you "will be pleased to countenance and assist "us in this plan. It will be easy for you, "being a native, to smooth all those dif-"ficulties, which to us are insurmount-"able. This paper, as one of the most "interesting, will have a considerable "sale,

" ſale, and conſequently bring in a great
" deal, and you ſhall come in for a rea-
" ſonable ſhare. The ſtate affairs, which
" are to be the object of this Chineſe
" correſpondence, muſt be chiefly ſuch
" as theſe: how often the emperor of
" China ſneezed the laſt month, how
" many pinches of ſnuff he takes, and
" how many pipes of tobacco he ſmokes
" every day; likewiſe, a circumſtantial
" account of his pipe, with notes and
" hiſtorical remarks; and, if poſſible,
" ſend us a draft of it, for engraving;
" be ſure to be very exact on that ar-
" ticle, as the difference of the dimen-
" ſions of the emperor's pipe may open
" a vaſt field of reflections to our pro-
" found politicians.

" Our correſpondents muſt be no leſs
" particular in the diameter of the em-
" peror's paraſol, when he goes to the
" pagod; likewiſe, its colour, and the
" ſtuff it is made of; in the baſtinadoes
" inflicted by mandarins during their
" adminiſtration; in the marriages,
" births, burials, and other important
" occurrences at Pekin.

" As to the advices being ſtale, no
" matter; on our receiving the materi-

"als for *The Pekin Daily Advertiser*, we "shall be at no loss about bringing them "in; for, in our own papers, we fre-"quently have articles a year old, which "are read with great satisfaction as quite "fresh."

LETTER XLIV.

The same to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

HERE are great numbers of foreigners, who voluntarily fled from their own country, leaving their families, their substance, their relations, friends, even dignities, and every thing most dear and desirable, and came hither for the sake of the free exercise of a religion which they scarcely believed; for religious conviction consists in making a man better, whereas these people seem to be grown worse. In general, they give themselves up to their passions more flagrantly than even they who deny a deity. They are notorious for sensuality, eagerness after lucre, and all the

the vices connected with voluptuousness and avarice.

The greater part openly shew a total indifference to that religion, for which they have sacrificed every thing. Once a week they attend the worship of their church, but with a manifest carelesness; and, at all other times, think no more of this church than if there was no such thing. This I call being martyr to a church upon trust.

I am sure it is not worth while removing out of one's country for the liberty of having scarce any religion.

LETTER XLV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the same at* Pekin.

London.

THIS is the very native country of humour and caprice: a fondness for singularity is the universal passion here. Some Englishmen never go to plays, never appear in the public walks, because it is the common custom to frequent those places. Others again will

have nothing to ſay to women, purely to deviate from nature.

I have been ſhown a Britiſh gentleman, who, about a year ago, married the fineſt young lady in England, and has not yet bedded with her: the reaſon he gives for ſuch a behaviour is, that every married man lies with his wife.

Another has at a vaſt expence procured a horſe from Arabia, which he never rides: and could you gueſs wherefore? It is becauſe in England all who have fine horſes make a ſhow of them.

Here are people who keep home in fair weather, and never go out but when it rains. Some wear linen in winter, and velvet in ſummer. Several ſpend their whole life in travelling abroad, whilſt others, as it were, make their ſeat their priſon; ſome diveſt themſelves of their fortunes, whilſt living, for the odd pleaſure of being voluntarily poor; others go into foreign countries on purpoſe to die there, for the ſatisfaction of their corpſe being brought home again: nay, ſome obſerve a moſt rigid ſobriety, and never ſo much as indulge themſelves in a chearfulneſs, purely in oppoſition to the national propenſity to drunkenneſs: but

it is conjectured, that this singularity, together with that of the women, will not last long. In a word some go so far as to hang themselves merely out of humour.

All this is owing to the nature of the government, which allows every one to be master of his actions; that is, to please his fancy. Free nations have more pride than a servile people; and caprice is the offspring of excessive self-love.

LETTER XLVI.

The same to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na *at* Pekin.

London.

DEATH, here, seems to be only the second cause of life. They ask advice whether they should kill themselves: just as, at Pekin, we consult our friends in common affairs. The counsellor applied to in this case, should have some esteem for the party, that he may counsel him fairly: an advice for suicide generally proceeds from a particular favour.

I have often heard a ſtory on this head, which, though probably fictitious, gives a true idea of this nation; for if not founded on truth, it is, however, taken from the Engliſh temper.

A Briton, of plain good ſenſe, and accounted one of the beſt counſel in London, was applied to by a citizen, to know whether he ſhould make away with himſelf, laying before him the many ſtrong reaſons he had for ſo doing. *I have loſt my whole ſubſtance in trade,* ſaid he, *I have no relation who can do any thing for me; nor do I expect any wind-fall: my wife, ſince my misfortunes, has eloped, and her ſcandalous life is publickly known; my children, beſides their profligacy, as they expect nothing from me, ſlight me: I am of no profeſſion, nor do I know any thing that I can turn my hand to; ſo that to put an end to my misfortunes, I have ſome thoughts of dying: what do you adviſe me to?* "Oh! "by all means live," anſwered the ſenſible man, "life afford remedies for "every thing; ſome unforeſeen events "may ſtart up. There are ſo many "doors by which fortune may come into "the houſe of an unhappy perſon, that "he is ſet again on his legs when he

"leaſt

least expects it. Take my advice, sir, "and don't kill yourself."

The citizen went away, and laid aside all thoughts of dying. The next day he imparted his consultation to a friend of his, who, not approving of it, expostulated on it with the counsellor, with whom he was acquainted. The latter, instead of disowning the charge, gave him this answer. "Your friend is nothing to me; I keep my good counsels for those who are recommended to me, or for whom I have a personal affection. Had he been one whom I esteemed, I should to be sure have advised him to have hanged himself; besides, to deal frankly with you, I have for this long time owed him a grudge; and very glad was I of this opportunity of being revenged, by advising him to live."

The French, amidst all the pangs of despair, cannot think of making away with themselves; whereas in the English it kindles an additional rage, impelling them to rush on death. A French author says, that this hanging disease is owing to *a want of filtration in the nervous juice*; and he believes, that it is no more

in the power of the Britons not to kill themſelves, than of dogs not to run mad. If ſo, philoſophy, morality, and religion, cannot be of the leaſt effect in arreſting this cocoethes, the ſource of it lying deep in the habit of the body.

If this be the real caſe, the total extinction of the nation might be predicted, and a calculation made in how many centuries all the Engliſh have hanged or drowned themſelves, nearly as a total eclipſe is foretold a thouſand years before. It is certain that in ſome months of the year the hanging is more frequent than in others; and ſo well known are theſe months, as to be the common epochas of romance writers.

This frenſy is not any delirium of the mind, it is a deliberate rage. The ſuicides are often known to make regular wills; the hanged and drowned lay before the public the reaſon of their procedure; for here they plead reaſon and good ſenſe in the wildeſt extravagancies, and the moſt flagrant abſurdities.

One is a ſon killing himſelf out of vexation that his rich father lives too long; another is a gameſter, who has loſt a ſum which he is not able to make good; this

this is a lover, who under his miſtreſſes inſupportable diſdain, puts an end to his life; that is a libertine, beggared by his exceſſes: in a word, all have ſome plea or other for blowing their brains out.

The Romans devoted themſelves to ſave the republic; whereas the Engliſh kill themſelves only on their own account, without any regard to the public good, or the happineſs of their country. The Roman frenzy might do ſome good, if the diminution of the members of a ſtate can be good; but that of the Britons is always a loſs to the ſtate, depriving it of members without any indemnification whatever.

When the laws morality and religion have failed in reclaiming a reigning vice or folly, there is ſtill one way left, that of deriſion; for men make light of every thing but what expoſes them to ridicule. Had I any influence with the great men at the helm, I would propoſe a gibbet ſhould be erected in the Hay-market, or Covent-garden, with this inſcription.

For the PUBLIC CONVENIENCY.

All ſubjects of his majeſty king George are allowed to hang themſelves here till they are dead, dead, dead: with exception however of thoſe in whom ſtill remains ſome ſentiment of probity, honour, and religion; our concern for them not allowing us to confound them with lunaticks, madmen, and wretches void of any good principle.

LETTER XLVII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

MONTPELLIER, where I at preſent am, ſwarms with phyſicians, and of courſe the burying vaults are not empty. The air however is healthy and pure, and this is the only advantage for the patients, who come hither to be buried, as ſoon after their arrival they give up the ghoſt. This, ſay the docters of this celebrated faculty, is becauſe they have one foot in the grave before they are ſent.

I believe

I believe all the diseases in the world are to be found in this city; and Montpellier may be accounted the universal warehouse of human infirmities.

In the first apartment I took here, I found myself lodged with the gravel; accounting distempers catching, I left it the very next day, and hired another; but here I found myself with the gout. I removed to a third apartment, where I met with the stone. I changed a fourth time, but without much mending myself, the fistula being in my new dwelling; this frightened me away to another, where I found myself with a Gonorrhea, which I soon left, but met with the Pox.

The distempers growing worse and worse as I shifted lodgings, I e'en returned to my first; of all disorders to which poor mankind is subject, preferring the gravel.

The faculty of Montpellier is in great reputation; there's not a valetudinarian in Europe who does not come to consult it; nor a patient who dares go out of the world without asking its leave.

I had conceived that to be admitted into this learned body was a very difficult matter;

matter; whereas nothing is ſo eaſy, it is only pronouncing a few Latin words in public; ſo that, it is purely a regard to my health which has kept me from making myſelf a phyſician.

Every foreigner of any medical curiosity, on coming here, makes it his firſt buſineſs to pay a viſit to a celebrated Eſculapius, who is accounted the greateſt practitioner of his age. In conformity to this complaiſant cuſtom I waited on him. His houſe is a mere infirmary; the ſteps were crowded with dropſical people; the hall with the conſumptive and aſthmatic; in his anti-chamber were nephritic patients, and in his cloſet he was buſy with lunatics.

Probably genius is not abſolutely neceſſary to make a great phyſician, and one may be ſuch without being a conjurer. However it be, never did I ſee ſo much dullneſs, or an appearance leſs anſwerable to the idea entertained of a man of learning. This famous Hippocrates, inſtead of expreſſing himſelf in any known idiom, ſpeaks only the language of the dead; he ſaid ſome words to me in his country jargon, which I did not underſtand. And theſe unintelligible

intelligible words he accompanied with ſuch grimaces and contortions as perfectly frightened me; ſo that, leſt I might contract ſome chronical diſtemper, which I ſhould have carried to my grave, I made my viſit as ſhort as poſſible.

LETTER XLIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

HAVING mentioned a gibbet, it ſhall be the ſubject of this letter. I was lately preſent at an execution of fifteen malefactors.

This tragical ſcene was exhibited at a place called Tyburn, where condemned criminals are conſtantly diſmiſſed into the other world every ſix weeks. Near the gallows are two ſpacious amphitheatres, for the reception of the nobility and gentry who may be inclined to be preſent at this entertainment; it coſts no more than a common play; for half a crown a perſon may give himſelf the pleaſure of ſeeing thirty of his countrymen executed, which

which is but a penny a head. This spectacle has nothing dismal in it. I had much rather see ten men hanged at Tyburn, than a tragedy at Drury-lane.

These fifteen criminals, all in white caps and gloves, being come to the place of execution, a mandarin, who had waited for them, coldly read to them a few words out of a book which he brought in his pocket: but the poor creatures little heeded what he said, and immediately after the executioner, driving away the carts on which they stood, left them hanging, not one shewing the least concern at their end. Is this courage? is it fortitude or weakness? for my part, were I to give my opinion, I should call it stupidity.

Some of these malefactors had devoured themselves before they died, selling their bodies to surgeons, and feasting for a day or two on the purchase money: others, at their death, leave their bodies to the worms, but these eat themselves: this is carrying the contempt of existence even beyond its period.

It is not only the hardened rude populace who are thus unmoved at the loss of life; but even those whom rank and

and education raiſe above the vulgar, are in the ſame way of thinking with regard to death. I may perhaps ſend you the funeral proceſſion of a lord of this kingdom hanged not long ſince. There is no great matter in it; but it may ſerve to give a knowledge of the ſeveral claſſes of the Britons. This puniſhment was inflicted on him for killing one of his domeſtics.

LETTER XLIX.

The ſame to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

ON the extinction of the Roman republic, corruption having pervaded all claſſes of it, the arts of luxury grew out of all price. There is not a more certain proof of the ſprings of government being out of order, than the giving large encouragements to talents which ſcarce deſerve any reward at all.

The moſt contemptible profeſſions are in England the beſt paid. A ſinger ſhall have no leſs than ſix thouſand ounces of ſilver for ſinging a few Italian ariettas. A player

A player three thouſand ounces a year, for performing ſome buffoonries. I have been told it is nothing uncommon for a certain fidler to have forty ounces of ſilver, only for playing the ſpace of fifteen minutes. Now a general, with the arduous care of an army, and who is in continual danger for the ſafety of the ſtate, is nothing near ſo well rewarded as a raſcal of an eunuch, only for quivering ſome tunes twice a week on a ſtage.

A miniſter of God, who gets half a guinea for a ſermon, thinks himſelf well paid, whilſt ten guineas is not grudged for a ſonata. What diſcourages uſeful callings is, that thoſe, which are only the conſequence of idleneſs, run away with extravagant rewards, whilſt the neceſſary can ſcarce earn a ſubſiſtence. Should a father of two ſons, make one a farmer and the other a muſician, the former ſhall be ſtarving whilſt the latter ſhall be rioting in affluence; yet the difference of their utility is palpable; the farmer's labour produces corn, whereas the exerciſe of the other produces only ſounds.

LET-

LETTER L.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the same at* Pekin.

London.

THERE was yesterday a publick fast in this kingdom: the English nation starves itself once a year, for having put to death one of its kings. This king's name was Charles Ist. he is accounted a martyr, yet, every body allows that he was nothing of a saint in politics, having most bunglingly suffered his head to be cut off by one of his subjects.

An odd circumstance in the anniversary of this declaration is the way of giving notice of it to the reigning prince. There must be no shuffling here: these very words must be spoken to him the evening before: *sir, the nation will fast to-morrow, for having put one of your predecessors to death, by the hands of the executioner.* For my part, who see no great policy in this commemoration, think that people should remove from their sight, objects which tend to raise horror and indignation. I have taken the liberty of

saying

ſaying to ſeveral Engliſh, with whom I have been in company: methinks, gentlemen, this faſt ſhould be ſtricken out of your calendar. *Strike out this faſt!* anſwered they, *no, no, that's what we ſhall never do. We muſt ever keep up the remembrance of this woeful day. It is the only faſt in the year we obſerve with any ſtrictneſs.*

Some Engliſh, however, there are, who ſincerely lament the cataſtrophe of that unhappy prince; but they muſt keep their lamentations to themſelves; for they would be as ſeverely handled as for drinking his grandſon's health.

LETTER LI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE wealth and eaſe of the Europeans depends not a little on the place of their birth. A Swiſs, with ten thouſand pounds ſterling in his country, is really worth that ſum; whereas an Engliſhman, with a like capital, only enjoys five thouſand, paying half of his ſubſtance

ſubſtance for being born under a free government. This perhaps it is which induces ſo many people in Europe to continue ſlaves.

There would be no end, were I to lay before you all the taxes and impoſts now in force here; they are in number as the ſands of the ſea. The Britiſh nation is taxed from head to foot; not a part of their bodies but what pays a duty to the ſtate.

As for luxury, be it taxed; but the very climate itſelf is an article in the book of rates. The more air a houſe inhales, the more money the owner pays. Engliſh freedom cramps the very ſun beams. The ſubject, however free in his houſe, is not at liberty to admit into it what quantity of light he would; he ſees in it, only according to the light he purchaſes.

The duty on words, ludicrouſly propoſed in France, is ſettled here litterally. The public ſpeakers or gazetteers are taxed; they pay three halfpence to the government for every diſcourſe with which they daily amuſe the public. Apocryphal news, vapid and dull reflections on politics, even falſities and lies are taxed: this is extracting the very quin-

tessence of imposts, and leaving the people only eyes to deplore the felicity of being free.

LETTER LII.

The Mandarin Nio-san *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

HERE are two religions, that of the Catholics who believe in the pope, and that of the Christians who utterly deny his authority: the former affirm, that God every day comes down on earth; and the latter say that he never stirs out of heaven. Those maintain that he becomes flesh and bones; these that he ever remains a spirit. One assert his body to be in a wafer; the others say that his presence fills the universe. Which is to be believed? knowing your rational way of thinking in divine matters, I dare say you would not long hesitate on the choice of these two religions.

I preferably keep company with those who hold the Supreme Being to be every where, and that he has not appointed any place on earth for his particular residence.

ſidence. I conform pretty well to their genius; and their reaſonings, even on the ſmalleſt matters, appears to me more conſiſtent than thoſe of their adverſaries, who hold with image worſhip. The cauſe of this may be, that, not having ſo many ceremonies in their religion, they are leſs ſuperſtitious; and being thus exempt from that mental weakneſs which debaſes the ſoul, they muſt naturally have more virtues, and conſequently fewer vices.

Whether the belief of Proteſtants has any influence on their ſucceſs in life, I ſhall not determine; but certain it is, that at Montpellier they are much the wealthier party of the two: indeed this is little more than natural.

They againſt whom every gate of preferment is ſhut, are thereby excited to more care and activity in putting themſelves in the way of fortune. Induſtry, when without any other help, ever ſhews itſelf alert and inventive.

Riches laſt in Proteſtant families, as having no outlets; whereas among the Roman Catholics there are a thouſand ways open to them. In that ſect the

ſword and the law cramp all trades; whereas the Proteſtants being generally brought up in their father's profeſſion, ſo far from quitting it, they make it their chief ſtudy to improve it. On the preſent footing of things, I dare foretell, that in two centuries, induſtry and riches will be all on one ſide, and the maſs and images on the other.

This is a ſituation detrimental both to prince and people. It clogs the general induſtry, and deprives the ſtate of citizens, whoſe abilities might be employed to much more advantage.

I may perhaps have an opportunity of ſending thee a copy of a memorial on this head, inſcribed to the king. The author is a Proteſtant of this city, a man of very good ſenſe, and in it he ſpeaks in the name of thoſe of his ſect; but it is a chance whether ever it will come to the king's hands; religious blindneſs in France being ſuch, that the court debars from itſelf all the means of better information.

LET-

LETTER LIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE two theatres of Covent-garden and Drury-lane are each conducted by its manager, who levies the contributions on the public; and the surplus of the tax he puts in his own pocket.

The actors here, like manufacturers, are paid according to their work. The parts of emperors, kings, queens, tyrants, heroes, fops, footmen, are rated: one has so much a week to make the public laugh, and another to draw tears from it. No player is admitted into the theatrical council; like drudges, all they have to do is to perform their parts, and receive their wages.

In France, if the government be monarchical, the theatre is perfectly republican; whereas in England it is just the reverse. Two petty tyrants having possessed themselves of the dramatical state, are become such despotic monarchs, that no prince in Europe rules more ab-

ſolute. Each of them has above fourſcore natural ſubjects, and above two or three thouſand denizons; ſo that I have heard ſay, there are ſeveral ſtates in Italy not ſo well peopled. They underſtand their buſineſs too well, not to imitate ſovereigns; who, from a mutual jealouſy of each other's authority and power, are continually at war; and with this difference, that however political ſtates in a few years terminate their wars by congreſſes, the two theatres of Drury-lane and Covent garden are never at peace. It is only for the want of troops, that theſe two directors do not take the field againſt each other. Could they employ their theatrical ſoldiers otherwiſe than on the ſtage, we ſhould often hear of real tragedies; but if they want troops and cannon, they are continually piqueering and doing each other all the ill turns which envy, jealouſy, and party ſpirit can ſuggeſt.

The capital point between theſe two mock powers, is to hinder the ſucceſs of any new piece in the other houſe. On Drury-lane's giving out a comedy or tragedy which has not yet appeared on the ſtage, immediately the Covent-gar-

den

den junto set their wits to work, and prepare their engines to make it miscarry; censures are past on it before the bills are put up; and on its first acting, a band of mercenaries is detached thither to hiss it from the beginning to the end.

All governments have ever had their spies; and those two potentates accordingly retain some of this class; so that if one of the theatres has a new ballad, a new scene, or an unknown pantomime in agitation, the other is immediately advised of it by its emissaries, who farther gives them a sketch of the projected novelties. Another artifice of theirs is, to buy away from each other the celebrated actors, or any buffoon, who is a particular favourite of the public.

There are some things, which however minute, must be known, to let one into the temper of a nation. My kind baronet has given me an abridgement of the chronological history of these dramatical kings, during the present century.

Chronological branch of the laſt race of the monarchs of the Engliſh theatre.

" An actor, of the name of Booth, " ſucceeded the firſt race of the ancient " theatrical kings. This regality he " purchaſed; and by his money raiſed " himſelf to that dignity; for then, as " at preſent, there was no being ſove- " reign on the ſtage but by patent.

" This royal player did not wear the " theatrical crown alone; there were " then four other kings in his gang: ſo " that in thoſe times the dramatic mo- " narchy of England was a kind of con- " federacy of ſovereigns. Booth had " three aſſociates, who had attained to " the crown the ſame way as he, and " ſhared the profits with him; but this " monarch, either by the gout or ano- " ther infamous diſtemper, not unknown " to kings, eſpecially theatrical kings, " being rendered unequal to the weight " of buſineſs, he turned his thoughts to " abdicate the crown, or rather ſell it. " Accordingly he entered into a treaty " with one Highmore, who had turned

" player

"player on account of a wager; and "this adventurer paid ſeven thouſand "guineas for two-thirds of the theatrical "ſovereignty. He imagined, that by "thus getting into his hands the greateſt "part of the ſcepter, his revenue would "not only be larger, but that the ſupe-"riority of his prerogative would put "an end to the cabals and altercations "unavoidable among a multiplicity of "equal ſovereigns.

"Highmore's reign was far from being "happy, his ſubjects revolting againſt "him, as incapable of the crown. The "firſt charge was, that he had been an "honorary player; and the ſecond, that "he was born a gentleman: nothing "being a greater obſtacle to the attain-"ment of this crown than creditable "parentage.

"The inſurgents were headed by noe "Cibber, alſo a player, who indeed had "firſt blown the flame of diſcord. This "incendiary was of a reſtleſs, turbulent "temper, conſtitutionally wicked; do-"ing miſchief only for miſchief's ſake. "The ſedition became general; and "the players, in juſtification of their "revolt, ſaid, that they were born in

"a free country, and not to be made
"slaves of by any piece of parchment
"in the world. They deserted their
"king; saying, they had a right to act
"what they would, and wherever they
"pleased. They betook themselves to
"the little theatre in the Hay-market,
"where they acted on their own account;
"sharing the profits among themselves:
"Thus was the constitution of the Eng-
"lish theatre changed to a common-
"wealth. The monarch of the theatre be-
"ing destitute of subjects, his power for
"some time lay under an eclipse.

"On considering the origin of this
"crown, it appears surprising that it
"should ever meet with a purchaser.
"The histrionic tribe were under no en-
"gagements, or obligatory allegiance
"to their sovereign; they might go
"from one company to another, or act
"on their own bottoms, as they did
"now; so that the sovereignty at that
"time lay in the patent.

"Highmore, however, had one fa-
"vourable circumstance on his side; he
"had been invested with his domini-
"ons by virtue of an express commis-
sion.

"sion from St. James's; the consequence "of which was, that if the dramatic "nation could revolt with impunity, "king George was no longer lord Pa-"ramount. In support of the privi-"ledges of the crown and his own, he "arrested one of his subjects, a Hay-"market-actor, and the affair was even "brought to Westminster-hall, where "his dramatic majesty was cast to all "intents and purposes.

"Highmore, irritated at this indig-"nity, resigned the crown. After this "unfortunate prince, Charles Fleet-"wood, the first of the name, took in "hand the reins of the theatrical govern-"ment. From the vicissitudes he had "undergone in his youth, it was expect-"ed that he would reign happily: for "it seems necessary to princes to have "known adversity. On his accession "to the throne, instead of trusting to "a people who took no formal oath of "allegiance to their sovereign, and thus "imagined to have a right of offering "their services elsewhere, when the "affairs of the crown happened to be "in a little disorder; he appointed a "lord high chancellor to draw up an

"instrument of convention for binding "his people to obedience. This was "the first compact ever known between "players and their managers.

"This prince made the above-named "Theophiluus Cibber his prime mini-"ster; but this man's genius and in-"trigues soon lost him his place. Charles "having some where read that it was "dangerous for a prince to have a mi-"nister wiser than himself, dismissed him; "and conferred his office on one Mack-"lin, a shallow man, quite unfit for "great affairs, except in the happy ta-"lent of managing the finances well, "which, at present, is the principal part "of ministers of state. However, the "revenues of the theatrical crown, which "at first seem to increase, fell so low, "that Charles was obliged to quit his "dominions, and fly to France, like "James the IId. but with this differ-"ence, that the king of the theatre had "a pension to live on, whereas the king "of England subsisted intirely on alms.

"Charles, when on the throne, had, "sovereign-like, mortgaged his domi-"nions, and alienated the crown re-

"venues; yet, even in this condition, "several competitors put in for it.

"After all, the kingdoms of the two "theatres are at present come in par- "cels, under the conduct of three di- "rectors, who manage them on their "own account: their annual revenues "are estimated at eighty thousand pounds "sterling, out of which the expendi- "tures are defrayed. Germany has a "great many sovereign states which "yield nothing like that sum."

LETTER LIII.

The same to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

MOST arts and trades are carried on in England on a man's bare word: it is only saying that one is of such a profession, and at London he may openly practise it. Here are particularly a great number of most ingenious foreigners, teaching what they don't know, which of all the sciences in the world must be the most difficult.

Some

Some make themselves professors of mathematics, algebra, and natural philosophy; others stile themselves physicians; others surgeons; as to quacks, and the dealers in specifics, them I omit, as warranted by effrontery to set up for skill and erudition: others again give themselves out to be dancing, fencing, and riding-masters; those who have not any share of these talents, and are likewise deficient in genius, make themselves French masters; a very numerous class; for to be such it is only taking the name.

I lately dined with an English lady, whom I some times visit: she has been ten years under such teachers, and is reckoned to be acquainted with all the refinements of that language. The soup being brought to table, I asked her to give me leave to help her; she answered, *s'il vout plait, monsieur*. Soon after I proposed to her to eat some sallad, she said, *de tout mon cœur*. The conversation afterwards turning on an acquaintance of hers, I asked whether she visited her often, and her answer was, *ily avoit un quart d' an qu' elle ne l'avoit vue, & qu' elle ne la verroit peut etre pas d' un demi an.*

Having

Having in my last visit recommended to her a book, translated from the Chinese, I begged to know whether she had read it, she told me that *elle l'avoit fait chercher chez tous les libraires de la ville, mais qu'il n'y avoit pas telle chose.* After dinner, she asked me to drink some coffee; I made her answer, that some times I drank a dish or two; and on taking my leave, I begged that I might be allowed to continue my visits; she told me *qu' on pouvoit la voir à toute heure, mais que le plus sur pour la trouver etoit de venir le matin a douze heures, &c. &c.* With other expressions foreign from the genius of the French language, as is easily perceived by those who are but tollerably acquainted with that idom.

In most English houses one sees a kind of domestic dissonance. The hair-dresser is generally a native of Paris, the cook must be a Frenchman, and the governor is a Swiss, taking upon him to teach the young lord sciences of which he himself is ignorant.

In France Swissers stand at the gate, and at London they are in the parlour. There are some heavy nations, who through the coarseness and rigidity

of

of their organs, are fit only for those occupations which require rather labour than genius; to such the education of young people should by no means be committed. The Swissers are deficient in that volatility, of which the French have a superabundance; the nature of the former has too much of matter in it; among them good sense extinguishes taste and delicacy; accordingly they who have closely examined England, say, that since Swiss governors have been in vogue there, the youth are become dull and heavy like their instructors.

I do not charge that nation with a want of genius; only it is not fit for the use made of it in England.

LETTER LIV.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-san *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* London.

Montpellier.

THE ecclesiastics, the gentlemen of the sword and the long robe, with others, hold an annual meeting in this city, under the title of the states.

The

These states, which to be sure were originally instituted to regulate the affairs of the province, continue sitting three months; and the order of their proceedings is as follows.

The first month is spent in visits and splendid entertainments, in the second they enter on business, and in the third leave it unfinished. Hereupon the states break up, and the year ensuing they return to dispatch the affairs of the province as before.

The presidents in this assembly are mandarin bishops, stiled highnesses, tho' some of them are under four feet: on their breast they wear a golden cross, as the sign or figure of the ignominous death to which their Messiah subjected himself; it is likewise a symbol of charity and contempt of riches. And this accordingly is what, in this religion, distinguishes the ecclesiastics with an humble revenue of a hundred thousand livres a year, from those who have not yet attained to such christian mortification.

Thou mayest well think that an assembly directed by priests is not without processions. These states open with one very

very ſolemn, to which I had the pleaſure of being a ſpectator.

It was my good fortune to ſtand next to a Languedocian, a ſmart and polite gentleman, but withall a little ſatyrical, and he was ſo kind as to explain to me the different figures of this moving picture.

Sir, ſaid I to him, may I beg the favour of you to tell me who is that large man, diſtinguiſhed by a blue ribbon? That, anſwered he, is the marſhal de Thomond, our governor: he has a mighty grave deportment, replied I; very true, returned he, but his parſimony exceeds his gravity; one would think the court had ſent him hither on purpoſe to make us the more lament his two predeceſſors, who made money circulate among us, loving play, women, and feaſting; whereas this man neither feaſts, games, nor loves.

It is almoſt ever the caſe with the great men ſent to govern us; they run into extremes; either putting us to great inconveniencies by their profuſeneſs, or ruining us by their œconomy. The former contract debts, and the latter lay us under a neceſſity of doing the like.

Who

Who is that other, replied I, walking by his ſide, with the ſame order, without wearing the habit of it? That, ſays he, is his grace the archbiſhop of N——, primate of the Gauls; and as ſuch, preſident of the aſſembly of the ſtates.

Sir, interrupted I, is your primate of any religion? I aſk this queſtion, having heard that all the biſhops of Languedoc were damned; if ſo, you muſt allow it is not worth while believing in God to go to the devil. Oh! take my word for it, anſwered the Languedocian abruptly, he is no heretic in ambition. In that reſpect he works out his ſalvation with indefatigable zeal: he is of the religion of the great ones; cloſely attends the king and dauphin: beſides, he is zealouſly affected to the third perſon of the Verſailles trinity, of whom he wears the collar: you ſee, added he, that he is a good catholic; for he believes in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt, and the Lord has bleſſed him accordingly. He ſtands fair for the eccleſiaſtical paradiſe of France; and, I believe, that is his only aim; for, under the roſe, our primate is like Cæſar, who, when in Gaul, minded nothing but Gaul.

Who

Who are these others walking two by two, dressed like the primate, who, however they may believe in the Father and the Son, it seems are not yet raised to the worship of the Holy Ghost. They are bishops; for instance, pointing towards them, there's my lord of Beziers; here's my lord of Usés; that is my lord of Alais; this is my lord of Mirepoix: a great many cities indeed, sir, to walk in this procession: it is a sort of map.

Do you know, added I, who are those in a different garb from the others? They are barons—and what have these barons to do in the assembly of the states? Why faith nothing at all, said he, accordingly nothing do they do there; they sit in that assembly only to encrease its numbers: barons there will always be among the states of Languedoc, though their absence would be rather better than their company.

And pray, what are these set of men who walk with all the statelinesss of the others? These are the syndics of the province: syndics, replied I, what is that? They are so called from the variety of business which comes under their cognizance; the welfare of Languedoc depends

pends on their abilities: to be ſure then, ſaid I, they muſt be men of wonderful parts: their parts are indeed wonderful, for ſome of them are not able to govern their own houſe, and yet are thought qualified to manage the province.

Oh! by all means, tell me who is this little fat chub, paſſing by us? Chub do you call him, anſwered my interpreter, ſmiling; he is no leſs a perſon than the deputy mayor of the city: he ſeems very conceited, ſaid I; ſo much the worſe, ſaid he; nobody has leſs reaſon to be ſo, for his genius would not weigh down a ſtraw; yet, though univerſally known to want capacity, he has made his way in the world; it is not long ſince he was clerk to a commiſſary for apprehending thieves, and now he figures with the nobility. From being intitled to be preſent at the gibbet, he has now a ſeat in the conferences.

But do I not ſee, ſaid I, among the great men of this province, ſome who look as if juſt come from the plough, downright farmers; what do thoſe folks do There? they are villagers, anſwered he, who have warrants to come every year, and walk about our ſtreets in company

pany with biſhops; this great honour they bought of the king by an advance of money. They are inveſted with what is here termed municipal employments, but are looked on only as the lackies of the ſtates; though this is wronging them, for lackies are of ſome uſe in an aſſembly, whereas theſe are mere cyphers.

One word more, ſir, and I have done, whither is this motley proceſſion going? they are going to one of our churches, called Notre Dame, to beg the illumination and aſſiſtance of the Holy Ghoſt for the due conduct of the buſineſs of the provinces: how ſo, replied I, I have heard that they never do any buſineſs: that's nothing, replied he, ſtill they pray; beſides, they had already been at the charge of coming to Montpellier, and the members of the ſtates being here, and the Holy Ghoſt in that church, the invoking it is a matter of neither trouble nor expence. Here my Languedocian gave me a nod and went away.

LET-

LETTER LV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

I Think I have mentioned to you the fondneſs of this people for politics. It cannot indeed be otherwiſe in a country with ſo many public profeſſors of this ſcience.

Theſe profeſſors are, *the Daily Advertiſer*, *Publick Advertiſer*, *London Gazetteer*, *Public Ledger*, *St. James's Chronicle*, *London Chronicle*, *London Gazette*, *Baldwin's Journal*, *Owen's Weekly Chronicle*, *Craftſman*, *Britiſh Spy*, *Weſtminſter Journal*, *Old Britiſh Spy*, *Royal Weſtminſter Journal*, *or Old Britiſh Spy*, *London Spy*, *Weekly Journal*; without reckoning thoſe of a lower claſs, who, in the evening, retail the political news which happened in the morning; for there's not an hour in the day, in which London affords not ſome event worthy of being tranſmitted to poſterity, were it only the death of a dog, or the birth of a child.

In

In other European ſtates politics is limited, but here has its free range, and comprehends every thing; every action ſocial life comes within its verge.

The profeſſors of this ſcience indeed do not invent all that they inſert in their daily paper; they have their aſſiſtants, who eaſe them of the labour of thinking. Their buſineſs is to diſpoſe and connect the materials which are ſent them ready for publiſhing; ſo that properly ſpeaking they are no more than the editors of others reflections.

They have alſo writers of fictitious letters, which ſerve to fill up the paper in a ſcarcity of news: their political diſcourſes generally conſiſt of four folio pages; whether they have any thing to ſay or no, ſtill the four pages muſt be filled up from the beginning to the end; their lectures are by no means to be ſhortened. Any dearth of politics they ſupply with diſcourſes on other ſubjects; and, to extend theſe to their proper length, in the room of ſenſe they only multiply words.

Births, marriages, and burials are, indeed, an inexhauſtible fund to them.

They

They kill the living with news relating only to the dead.

Thou wilt. readily imagine that fame is not the motive for which these commentators take up the pen; it is their own interest which makes them busy themselves about the interests of princes. Indeed they don't exact; or rather, they sell their lectures at a very reasonable rate. The reader may tire himself from year to year, for so small a sum as two pence halfpenny a day; it is a stated price.

Besides these retailers in politics, there are magazine writers, a class above the former. These mingle civil concerns, morality and buffoonery, with the interests of princes; they put together a collection of old stale things printed long ago, and commonly known; and of these, every month, they favour the public with a new edition.

LETTER LVI.

The same to the Mandarin Cotao-yu-se *at* Pekin.

London.

GEORGE the third's marriage is just made public; his bride is to be Charlotte of Mecklengburg Strelitz, a princess of many excellent qualities, besides her wit and genius: she is a branch of a German house, issued from those kings who subdued the world; she is but seventeen years of age, and the king twenty-four.

Though this couple be three or four hundred leagues from each other, they have already, by the means of painters, seen and conversed with each other, and made their declarations of love: for this same painting is of great use to Christian princes, as thus they know their spouses long before they see them.

Great preparations are making for the marriage, the whole kingdom is in motion. Manufacturers, artizans and tradesmen have all their hands full: the men have

have befpoke rich fuits of cloaths, and the women very coftly ornaments. One would think that every body was preparing their own wedding, and that the kingdom itfelf was on the point of marriage.

Whither the king will have any children I know not, but, certain it is, that the circulation arifing from his marriage will be the caufe of many births; for, after all, generation depends not a little on the ftirring of money. This progeny may be termed the children by the crown's fecond venter. It is a pity the kings of Europe don't marry oftener, their countries would be much better peopled.

LETTER LVII.

The fame to the Mandarin Cotao-yu-fe *at* Pekin.

London.

TO fet off a woman's face, and fit it to appear in company, is a long winded bufinefs in France, whereas in England it is done in a trice. This care, which, in other places, is the greateft of all, is none at all here.

An English lady at her rising leaves her face as it is, and wears it all day as she found it in the morning. She neglects not to seat herself before her glass, and adjust the other parts of her dress; but as to her face she might do without a toilet; if she puts a finger to it, it is only to rumple its appurtenances, and give it that something of an air of negligence which heightens the disorder of her features, and, here, is the utmost refinement of beauty.

They who are acquainted with the different ways women take to please men, say, that a face thus left to itself, without any foreign adjustments, is most apt to make lively impressions. This I shall not venture to decide; for to know whether a studied paleness, an affected disorder, a premeditated negligence, constitute beauty, requires a profound skill in the controversy of graces.

Young and chitty faces are not current here. The beauty of women must have something of a staid appearance: the British lasses, to please, must make themselves like their grandmothers.

The French young women are too forward with their charms, hurrying to meet

meet every faſhion; whereas Engliſh beauty recurs to the modes of former times. The women who dreſs their heads now as in queen Anne's time are admired.

And even this beauty is ſtill too modern. They whoſe head dreſſes are all over rumples, as in Charles IId. time, are pretty; but thoſe Britiſh ladies who imitate the mode under Henry VIIIth. are beautiful, and thus in a gradation of beauty up to the age of William the conqueror.

LETTER LVIII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

I Told you in my laſt, that the aſſembly of the ſtates of Languedoc never put the finiſhing hand to any buſineſs; but, one thing is always concluded, the levy of the free gift. This is an extraordinary ſum paid to the prince as freely as poſſible, for a gift made againſt one's will; amidſt a general diſtreſs every one diſtrains himſelf, and the ſum is raiſed.

Among these states there is indeed an attorney general; or to use the current expression, a tool of the court, who leaves no stone unturned to procure it money; and all this he does without any ambition or premeditated design of increasing his own fortune. No other fees or rewards does he require, than to be great almoner of France; perhaps should the war last, and the want of money increase, he will have more exalted inclinations, and may aim at a cardinal's hat.

But he is not the only tool, or rather the assembly of the states swarms with tools, so that one would think most of them are paid to ruin the province; no other effect can be expected from such a cause. All the members of this assembly are the king's men; the ranks and posts of every one in it depend on the monarch.

A bishop is sure to oppose the representations of a deputy of the commons, who proves the people to be under a moral impossibility of furnishing the sum required; this would effectually hinder him from ever being made an archbishop, and every one must look to himself.

The

The ſyndics, eſpecially, would be undone for ever, ſhould they oppoſe the levy of the ſums which the people are not in a condition to pay; as thereby proving the province to be under an inability; and the purpoſe of their being ſyndics, is only to ſee that it ſhall always be able. How great the diſtreſs of this province, once, as I have been aſſured, the moſt flouriſhing in all France! Imagine a country ravaged by a ſavage enemy, or ſcarce freed from the havock of peſtilence and famine: as it is continually drained of its caſh; all the branches both of government and private welfare droop; and if under ſuch a load of taxes and impoſts it does in any meaſure hold up its head a little; for this, it is beholden to the natural fertility of its ſoil, and the bounty of its climate.

LETTER LIX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

I Continually meet with riddles here. The Engliſh republic is governed by repreſentatives who are entruſted with the nation's concerns; conſequently too great a regard cannot be had to the knowledge, virtue, and abilities of perſons choſen to ſo important a truſt: it requires ſouls of a fine and elevated turn; men above the common weakneſſes of nature; this ſhould be ſo, and it is quite otherwiſe.

The elections for members of parliament, or the repreſentatives, are a ſort of public markets, where the intereſts of the commonwealth are ſold to the beſt bidder.

Virtue and merit are of no account in theſe elections. The repreſentative is not choſen, he purchaſes his ſeat; the people begin with corrupting him, whom they chuſe to be incorruptible.

Theſe

These elections open with drunkenness, and are carried on by avarice and venality. He who furnishes to the people the greatest variety of sensual gratifications, is chosen into the legislature. A hundred butts of strong beer qualify a person better for a senator and guardian of liberty and property than fifty; and a thousand guineas than a hundred.

The election of a member may be transacted without any great trouble to himself, it is his butler's business; and if he takes care to ply the majority of voters with good liquor, his master need not fear a seat in parliament.

How can it be imagined that men, who make use of such mean practices in their elections, are possessed of the endowments necessary for such a station, or are actuated by patriotic views.

LETTER LX.

The same to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE fleet appointed to go and bring over the princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, is to set sail in a few days, with an admiral, several general officers, noblemen, and four of the finest women in the kingdom to keep the princess company; together with a husband, who is to marry her, and make her a queen, even before she has seen the king. It is a kind of political *bulla* used in Europe, in which, consummation excepted, all the matrimonial functions are performed.

This vicarious husband is ever a mandarin of the first rank, and by this odd custom a princess has too husbands without being so much as married. The consequence of this is, that a christian king marries only widows; and all the princesses, at their espousals, marry a second time.

These

These customs the Asiatic sovereigns would never be reconciled to; they are too jealous; they would not marry a woman already married, though it had been only to an image.

LETTER LXI.

The same to the Mandarin Cotao-yu-se, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE English theatre has a greater variety than the French; the latter represent only men, whereas the former bring hell upon the stage. I lately saw a very grand scene of a meeting of witches; the whole pandemonium was set forth with a great deal of wit and fancy. Most of the British poets are so particularly acquainted with the ways and manners of wizards and magicians, that one would think they must have been very conversant with the infernal tribe.

Besides the magical actors, ghosts are likewise a favourite exhibition, and generally give great satisfaction. Indeed there is no great difficulty in their

parts; a bloody ſhirt and a maſk are the chief ingredients. Sometimes theſe gho ſpeak, but this is not the moſt diverting part on the Engliſh ſtage.

Another kind of actors, utterly unknown in the French drama, are executioners: but in England, that theatre muſt be very deficient, which has not two or three, excluſive of their underſtrappers.

Next to the executioners are the hiſtrionic murderers, who, like others, have wages to ſhed blood. For fifteen ſhillings a week, the managers of a theatre kill as many kings and emperors as they pleaſe. And theſe murders are ſo very frequent, that the pay is ſaid not to be above two-pence for every crowned head. In China a bird could not be killed at that rate.

I omit the arch-devils, and other perſonages of Lucifer's court, who are regularly paid to make the audience laugh. Their wages are not worth mentioning; for both at Covent-garden and Drury-lane, hell acts for little or nothing.

LET-

LETTER LXII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

THE people here are active, laborious, vigilant, induſtrious, fond of trade, and conſequently thirſting after wealth; but the queſtion is, whether they do not croſs their own views, and by their eagerneſs to have, loſe the means of acquiring.

They neglect the œconomical commerce for that of luxury: at firſt ſight, indeed, this country does not appear ſo well ſituated for it as others in Europe, which make a figure in trade; but on a cloſer examination of things, the inhabitants appear to be in fault, and not nature, which ſeems rather to have invited them to commerce.

This city ſtands almoſt at the ſea ſide, yet do not the people avail themſelves of ſo favourable a proximity. Maguelone, formerly a harbour, is now choked up, and nothing has been done for remedying ſo detrimental a change. The Mediterranean

diterranean might, by a canal, be brought up to the gates of Montpellier, and this canal is not ſo much as yet taken in hand.

If the parching heat of its climate makes it leſs fertile than ſome more northern parts of France, this ſterility, ſo far from being an objection to the œconomical commerce, is rather an incitement for the cultivation of it; and what firſt put Marſeilles on this commerce was its wants.

Holland, by what I have heard, is a living inſtance that affluence may be introduced into a country naturally barren and deſtitute: though, of itſelf, it could not ſupport its inhabitants, yet, is it the univerſal ſtorehouſe of Europe for corn.

The commerce of luxury has this diſadvantage, that it enriches neither the people nor the city where it is carried on: the very cauſe of the public wealth's not encreaſing, is the increaſe of caſh; for the price of all neceſſaries of life always depends on the relative proportion of money.

The

The natural and luxurious wants are now four times dearer at Montpellier than fifty years ago. This is owing to the money trade having introduced three times more ſpecie there than was in thoſe times: conſequently, with a vaſt deal of circulating caſh, they are not richer than they were formerly.

Money is a fictitious wealth, and does not increaſe real riches; whereas by improving the œconomical commerce, they had really been richer. A people furniſhing others with neceſſaries, may keep what portion it pleaſes for home conſumption.

I could ſay a great deal more on this head, but the proper limits of a letter will not allow me to diſcuſs it in its full extent.

LETTER LXIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE Paris coffee-houſes are not ſo full of politics as thoſe of London. In the former, the company only play at cheſs, or talk of love intrigues; whereas in the latter, the affairs of the kingdom, and of all Europe, are regulated, and meaſures dictated to the miniſtry: there are ſo many lower houſes, of which the meaneſt perſon may be a member, paying four-pence for a diſh of coffee; this is the doſe required for admittance. There are alſo ſome upper coffee-houſes; of theſe, the chief is White's chocolate houſe, where politicians, out of humour at loſing their money, relieve themſelves by exclaiming againſt the government.

The ordinary conferences of the lower houſes, open every morning with the news of the day: accordingly, the ſovereign of the ſhop takes in half a dozen or more

more news-papers, which proper officers, called *waiters*, diſtribute on the tables: every Engliſhman frequenting theſe houſes, will run on for four hours together, in regard to what he does not in the leaſt underſtand.

Formerly it was cuſtomary in the London coffee-houſes to lay wagers on ſtate affairs; but the intereſts of princes having ruined moſt of the politicians, that method has been ſuperſeded by diſcuſſion, though to the total change of the theory of debate: formerly he who had the moſt money was the moſt able politician; whereas now, it is he who can talk longeſt and loudeſt.

This laſt manner of argumentation on ſtate affairs, is taken from the houſe of commons at Weſtminſter; every thing here is a copy from the government.

As in this houſe, there is always ſome eloquent orator, who brings over to him great numbers of the aſſembly, and may be ſaid to determine the opinions of the members; ſo in every one of theſe places of reſort there is ſome glib talker, who never fails bringing the company into his ſentiments, and thus determines the coffee-houſe.

Not

Not a day paſſes throughout the whole year in which theſe politicians do not either eſtabliſh a better ſyſtem of government, increaſe the navy, improve trade, or lay down means for paying off the national debt, and anſwering all the exigencies of the ſtate without burthening the ſubject.

Didſt thou hear thoſe ſtate œconomiſts, thou wouldſt conclude them to be patterns of domeſtic thriftineſs and conduct, whereas they are the very reverſe.

No extravagant gentleman is more negligent than moſt of thoſe ſchemers; and generally their private concerns are in a terrible ſituation. Their genius for public œconomy they leave in the coffee-houſe, where they ſettle the affairs of Europe; for within their own walls all their domeſtic œconomy put together is not worth two-pence.

The baronet has aſſured me that moſt of thoſe who formed projects, in his time, for increaſing the public revenue, and ſaving the national expences, have died in confinement for debt; and he does not know where he himſelf ſhould have been, had he not left off coffee-houſe politics.

LETTER LXIV.

The same to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

HE who travels in England, besides a map of the country, should likewise have one of the inns on the road, otherwise he is likely to fare but indifferently, and yet spend a great deal of money.

This was my case in a journey I lately took to Yorkshire.

At the house where I lay the first night after leaving London, my landlord, on what grounds I know not, taking me to be of the court party, looked something cold at me.

By a certain motion of his eyes to one of his boys, I perceived that he ordered him to shew me a common room, with a bed answerable to it.

It being late I desired some supper; and a quarter of an hour after, a small table was set before me, with a piece of cold roast beef, tough as whit-leather; yet

yet one who came half an hour after me, had a nice fat fowl.

I asked the boy who brought me my liquor the reason of such different treatment. Sir, answered he, that gentleman was in the *opposition*. Why, my good lad, said I to him, I am also in the *opposition*; and, as a proof of it, I with both hands oppose your giving me at my return such a sorry supper as now.

The boy carried my words to his master, who immediately came with many excuses for his not having at first taken me to be of his party, assuring me, that had he known me, I should have been used like the other gentleman, and have had a fat fowl.

I made no more words, but at my second lodging, I took care on my coming into the inn, to let the master of the house know that I was in the *opposition*; but for this declaration, which, as I conceived, ought to have secured me a good supper, I had a very bad one, only two mutton chops; whilst a duck and turnips were brought to a stranger, who came in the same carriage with me.

Here I again complained to the waiter, but he told me he was in the *corruption*.

Well

Well, friend, anſwered I haſtily, ſo am I now, let me have ſomething to eat; for if I make no better ſupper, my ſtomach, for want of *corruption*, will ſtrangely be out of order to-morrow morning.

Out of regard to the party of which I declared myſelf, a fine plump duck with turnips was ſet before me within an hour after.

This was a warning to me, and on my return, at the inns which had fat fowls, I was in the *oppoſition*, and in thoſe that had ducks and turnips, I declared for the *corruption*. Yet, even with theſe precautions, a traveller is not ſure of his ends, by reaſon of the ſudden variations in politics; for an innkeeper, who is one month in the *corruption*, ſhall very often be of the *oppoſition* in the next. But a ſocial clergyman of this country, who prefers a good ſupper to all the court and parliament cabals, put me on a way which he himſelf obſerves on a journey: he ſends a ſervant before hand to reconnoitre the country; that is, to get intelligence of what party the landlord is, with whom he intends to lodge.

He

He told me, on this head, that he had ſome times been obliged, in the ſame journey, to play the apoſtate twenty times ſucceſſively, and to be in the *oppoſition* or *corruption*, according to the goodneſs of his landlord's wine, and as his roaſt beef looked.

LETTER LXV.

The ſame to the Mandarin Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

WHEN I was in France, I gave you ſome account of the clubs there. England likewiſe has clubs, but of a different kind, no woman being admitted here, which makes the utenſils of the aſſemblies of theſe two countries to be very different. In the former, fans, ribbons, and patch-boxes, are the principal ornaments; here, pipes and bottles.

The Paris clubs are grafted on gallantry, whilſt thoſe of London are founded on eating and drinking: hence it is that the latter are ſo very numerous; every Briton being able and willing to diſcharge thoſe two important points of Engliſh

English sociability. Among the great number of clubs, which at present dignify this huge capital; those which do it most honour are:

The Political club, *the Malecontent club*, *the Drunken club*, *the Talkative club*, and *the Cuckolds club*. Every one of those clubs has its regulations and institutes; and candidates, to be admitted, must prove their qualifications.

The POLITICAL CLUB is very numerous, as founded for all the subjects in general, and not confined to any particular class. Every one, from the cobler to the highest peer, may be admitted; provided he can pay three-pence half-penny for a pot of strong beer, at the ordinary sessions; and on a public day, two shillings for a bottle of port wine.

No person is to talk politics during the first five bumpers. The English affairs are not to come under deliberation till the sixth; and after the twentieth, it is allowed to settle the interests of all the powers of Europe.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED IN THE CANDIDATES. No person can be admitted a member of the Political Club, till he has given proofs of his having so far

far busied himself in public negotiations; as to have neglected his own private concerns, and must farther be able to make oath, that he has read at least ten thousand news papers.

THE MALECONTENT CLUB is very much increased since the reign of George IIId. and more especially since the court has listened to the French proposals of peace.

The president of this club must be a Jacobite, his capital article is to enveigh against the administration, and openly to oppose the court, right or wrong.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED IN THE CANDIDATES. No person to be admitted into this club, unless he can fluently rail at, and curse the king and his ministers. Accordingly, this society has a sworn curser, who decides the nature of the curses: stammering, or a difficulty of speech incapacitates: every candidate must, before his admission, distinctly pronounce, *damn the king*, *damn the ministers.*

THE DRUNKEN CLUB, one of the most antient in England, is at present at its highest elevation and dignity. It receives

ceives all good and loyal ſubjects to his majeſty king George, without diſtinction.

Its preſident muſt be a native of Ireland, and born at Dublin; according to its primitive laws, all the members ſhould be drunk and aſleep by midnight.

QUALITIES INDISPENSABLY REQUIRED IN THE CANDIDATES. The French, Spaniards and Italians are, by a particular regulation, excluded from a ſeat in this club, on account of their natural ſobriety. Indeed the only foreigners admitted into it are the Germans.

Every candidate is to prove that his belly holds two bottles of port wine, three of claret, one of Madeira, a bowl of punch, and ſix large glaſſes of drams; he muſt have his certificate ſigned by ſix vintners of the cities of London and Weſtminſter, of his having, in his life time, drunk a hundred tons of wine. He muſt likewiſe loſe his reaſon in drinking; for a candidate ſwallowing down ten glaſſes of wine without being drunk, would be excepted againſt.

THE DULL CLUB, which now makes ſo great a figure in this capital, though

 not

not ſo numerous as the *Political* and *Male-content*, has a great many members.

Its preſident muſt be a Londoner; and the members, in their compotations, muſt look at each other with ſtupified eyes: farther, they are to ſpeak but two or three words in ſome hours; and when ſpoken to, muſt always anſwer quite wide from the queſtion aſked them.

QUALIFICATIONS; the candidates for admiſſion into the dull club, muſt be downright automata, let down in the evening, and winded up again the next morning: thus both in body and ſoul they are, as it were, mechanical pieces of clock-work. Farther, no perſon is admitted into this club, till after belonging twenty years to the druken club.

THE TALKATIVE CLUB is not of ſo long ſtanding as the others; the epocha of its eſtabliſhment being the time of the foreign Proteſtants flying into England, on the revocation of the edict of Nantz.

Its firſt ſtatute requires that the preſident be a Frenchman, and, if feaſible, of Clerac, Montauban, or Bourdeaux: but

but Nimes or Montpellier make no objection. As to the counsellers and other principal dignities of this talkative assembly, the want of Gascons may be supplied by Irishmen.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE TALKATIVE CANDIDATES. They must have a very fluent tongue, so as to be able to speak three hours running, without saying any thing. Stammerers are not excluded, provided that by the efforts of articulation, and lengthening the words, they make the same noise as those who have no such impediment.

THE CUCKOLD'S CLUB, which began in England in the reign of Charles II. of amorous memory, still subsists, with great honour and reputation, and daily increasing its members, so that it bids fare (thanks to the manners of the age) to be one of the most flourishing in the whole kingdom. Every one of the king's subjects is capable of being admitted into this society: though it counts amongst its members some of the chief nobility.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED IN CANDIDATES TO BE ADMITTED INTO THE CUCKOLD'S CLUB. They must have spent

three years at Paris, to be thoroughly accuſtomed to the French uſages and morals. A claimant muſt prove that his wife is given to gallantry, and ſpends high, though he allows her nothing; but the great requiſite is, that he muſt certify that ſhe has read a great many romances.

LETTER LXVI.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

IN this city are three kinds of governments; that of his lordſhip the biſhop, of his excellency the governor, and of his honour the intendant. The firſt is at the head of eccleſiaſtical affairs, the ſecond ſuperintends the polity, and the third manages the finances. Money, in Europe, taking the lead of God and the king, and the Languedocians being thorough Europeans, his honour the intendant's houſe is the moſt frequented.

I was there a few days ago at an entertainment, her ladyſhip, his ſpouſe, though aged fifty-five, having been at the

the pains of presenting his honour a chopping boy, which is quite against all the rules of French generation: accordingly great rejoicings were made in the family; for here they proportion their tokens of joy to the singularity of the event.

There was a numerous company of persons of both sexes. Being a stranger to every one, I desired a gentleman, who was next to me, to give me some account of the several members; and he very politely complied with my curiosity.

Sir, said I to him, who are those ladies in the first row, and sitting at such a distance from the others, as by way of distinction? They, answered he, are our women of quality. There's but few, replied I. True, said he; for there's no great number of them: at Montpelier this class is something scarce, and withal not a little degenerated. It is very well that we have no genealogists; otherwise there would be an end of our persons of quality. Their children would want exactly sixteen quarterings to be be qualified for a knight of Malta. Who are those sitting directly behind them?

them? They are the ladies belonging to the *court of aids.* One would think, said I, that they were sitting in the court, and hearing trials in their husbands stead. Is it the privilege of this court to allow women being ridiculous? I am indeed a foreigner; but your aid ladies seem to want breeding. That seeming, replied the gentleman, is very real; most of our female presidents and counsellors had their education in a shop; and yet these are some of our prime nobility; for we must distinguish them from others of the same body, who are still more low lived.

Who are those other ladies, said I, behind the presidents and counsellors? Oh! they are sollicitors and attorneys wives—why they likewise, methinks, are not free from vanity.—Vanity, replied he, hastily, they are ready to burst with pride; especially those attornies wives, whose husbands go every morning to court in a gown, on purpose to impose on the judges, are insupportably haughty.

And pray who are those that compose the fourth row? They are the wives of our topping merchants. Ha! said I, by their modesty and reserve, they

they ſcarce appear to be women. That's all grimace, replied he; they are full of pride within; on their huſband's getting any ſnug place in the revenue, it ſoon ſhews itſelf outwardly, and they become like the reſt.

But, Sir, I ſee about your intendant a ſet of men who diſtinguiſh themſelves from the reſt of the company, by wearing a ſword—They are our gentlemen. —they have little the appearance of being ſuch; yet, ſaid he, they are exceſſively vain and conceited.

But what a cloud, as it were, of men in black, with ſorrowful phizes! who can they be?—They are phyſicians.—Phyſicians! and what buſineſs have they here? Oh! ſaid he, at Montpelier they have free acceſs at all times; they promote burials, and are preſent at births, as preludes to the former.

And they, whoſe apparel is of the ſame colour, and their countenances pretty much of the ſame caſt?--They are (begging your pardon) ſurgeons and apothecaries. How came they to be admitted here? I thought the chambers of the ſick were the places for them. You are a ſtranger indeed. Why, ſaid he, the

ſurgeons are the maſters of the ceremonies at Montpelier. A pupil of St. Coſmo, after cutting off two or three dozen of legs and arms, or anointing two or three hundred patients with mercury, thinks himſelf a man of great importance to the monarchy, and on a level with the capital geniuſes.

As to apothecaries, though they are not admitted to talk immediately with patients of any rank, they are ſometimes allowed to ſee their faces.

LETTER LXVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tǫu-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

IN France the women are vain, giddy and fanciful. In England they have ſtill a further fault, ſetting up for politicians.

It muſt however be owned, that they never would, of themſelves, have taken it into their heads to be ſo ridiculous; but this fault, like moſt others, is derived from the men, who even in the arms

arms of pleaſure will be harping on ſtate affairs.

All over the univerſe women have naturally but one concern, which is ſuperiority in beauty; but here they make themſelves two, adding to that rivalry the conduct of the ſtate. It is not to be thought that they take all this pains from their great affection to the ſtate: all countries are alike to that ſex. The motive of their zeal in politics proceeds from ſelf; for here, like beauty or money in other countries, a ſpirit of party procures a woman a huſband.

At London I was ſhewn a lady, who, meeting with no lover in the country party, went over to that of the court. This anſwered her purpoſe effectually; for ſoon after ſhe was married to one of the richeſt noblemen in the kingdom, and a lord of the bedchamber.

In theſe political marriages, the parties, inſtead of proteſtations of everlaſting love, ſwear to be true to the cauſe, and to continue in an inviolable attachment to the party, under viciſſitudes and unproſperous turns.

LETTER LXVIII.

The same, to the same, at Pekin.

London.

SOME days ago, I went by way of diversion to one of the English theatres; but instead of a comedy, I met with a burial *. The players, that night, entertained the public with a funeral procession, and all its appurtenances, in a very grand taste. Every thing which saddens the senses, or gives rise to gloomy ideas, or, in a word, deepens the melancholy of a spectacle, was here exhibited to make the audience laugh. As I was not greatly diverted with the obsequies, I went the next day to the same theatre, in hopes of being made amends; but this second time behold they were acting religious rites. After a long farce, a train of pilgrims came to offer up their prayers at an altar, in the most humble prostrations, and most of them carrying crosses, which among Christians are the symbols of the death of Christ. The company were highly delighted with the altar and the

* Romeo and Juliet.

crosses;

croſſes; but not a muſcle of mine moved, for I cannot laugh at ſerious things.

Two days after I ventured on a third play; but at the beginning of it appeared a ghoſt*, and it ſpoke ſo familarly to the ſpectators, as ſhewed it to be nothing more than common on the Engliſh ſtage. In the courſe of the drama, a grave was dug for burying a young lady, who had fallen a victim to love and grief. The player who performed this religious act, for ſuch it ought to be among all nations, highly diverted the pit, ſinging ſeveral merry ſongs whilſt he was digging: but the cream of the jeſt was when he met with ſome ſkulls among the earth; the actor's jokes and punns were, as the ſaying is here, enough to make one ſplit one's ſides with laughing.—I cannot bring myſelf to have any good opinion of a nation's taſte, where one of the moſt ſolemn acts of religion, and the moſt afflictive to nature, is brought on the ſtage as buffoonery and matter of laughter. The levity of comedy ſhould end where the tragedy of human life begins.

* Hamlet.

LETTER LXIX.

The same, to the same, at Pekin.

London.

PRINCESS Charlotte's marriage, besides an emulation in dress and ornaments, has excited an universal ambition; every one was for having some post about her.

I have been assured, above a thousand pages, three hundred comptrollers, and as many stewards, two hundred grooms, thirty coachmen, and two or three thousand footmen, with a whole college of physicians, and apothecaries without number, have presented themselves to be received into her service. The list of her ladies of the bedchamber exceeded five hundred, and that of her women something more; but of her maids of honour, the number it seems was very small. Some people are so ill natured as to say, that this class of ladies is quite out of date in England. It has been calculated, that had the court accepted of all the candidates, this princess's houshold would have consisted of between

between eight and ten thouſand perſons.

This ſhews a defect in the ſtate. The number of idle and unemployed people muſt be very great; for it is ſeldom ſeen, that a perſon habituated to a profeſſion, or of tolerable ſkill in it, leaves it to go and dance attendance about a queen, who ſeldom knows her domeſtics well enough to promote them according to their merit: It is always a want of buſineſs which cauſes thoſe places to be ſollicited for.

Did the European ſovereigns truly underſtand their intereſts, they would curtail their retinue, and not employ ſuch numbers of people in their domeſtic ſervice. It is making ſo many ſubjects uſeleſs to the ſtate; it is depriving themſelves of them. The greater the magnificence of their houſhold, the worſe for the ſtate. The Engliſh monarchs however cannot be reproached with this oſtentation; none of the kings of Europe live ſo much like private gentlemen.

LETTER LXX.

The same, to the same, at Pekin.

London.

EVERY government in Europe is busied in the pursuit of opulence. It is at present their philosopher's stone; yet it may be questioned whether, in this, ambition finds its account, and whether even too great an affluence does not lead to indigence. It is manifest, from known experience, that as the ways of living increase in a society, the harder it is to get a living; this is, because gold and silver, the signs of riches, represent less, as these metals become common.

London teems in opulence; but all these riches don't answer the wants. I don't here mean public diversions, plays and superfluities, which, though out of all price, yet are not beneath a government's care, so that the lower classes of society may come in for some share of them; for as the people chiefly bear the charges of the state, they should

ſhould not be ſecluded from public diverſions. This is a compenſation which the legiſlature. ſhould procure to them, for the labours and troubles naturally annexed to their condition.

The London notaries rate the marriage contract ſo high, that none but the great can afford to enter that ſtate. You really pay away a portion, to receive one. It requires a large income to have wherewithal to get children. Maſters are not to be had under an exorbitant price; they ſell their inſtructions as dear as gold; the genteel education of two or three children will eat up the fruits of the ſucceſſive induſtry of ten generations.

Juſtice alſo bears ſuch a price, that it is better to relinquiſh a good cauſe, than to gain it. The difficulty is not ſo much to obtain a verdict for recovering one's property, or obtaining ſatisfaction for an inſult, outrage, or injury: the main point is to gain one's proceſs againſt the very lawyer employed in it; he being generally ſure to obtain a decree, the very coſts of which ruins you.

He who can afford to be ſick in England, muſt have his purſe well lined.

To

To die by the prescriptions of physicians, is an article of great expence. The middling and lower ranks indeed are dispatched by subaltern officers of the medical corps, at a moderate rate. There is scarce an Esculapius without his vehicle, which, with its appurtenances, is chiefly kept by the fever.

Dying is not at all cheaper; there must be something of wealth for a man to be laid in his grave. As a great deal of money is requisite to be a man, there is no becoming a corpse for nothing; or rather death is as chargeable as life, &c. &c.

Such is the consequence of that so much boasted wisdom, such the effect of that system of government said to be the best in Europe; which to accumulate a fortune to the state, keeps the subjects poor.

LETTER LXXI.

The same, to the same, at Pekin.

London.

THE incontinency of the women of pleasure in England is heavy, and melancholy; it is deformity in the abstract,

abſtract, the moſt diſgraceful proſtitution in all Europe. Every thing, even to fruition, is inſipid in it. The cauſe of this is, that the Engliſh women, though naturally modeſt, ſuddenly from one extreme give into another. They make little or no interval between virtue and profligacy; but in an inſtant traverſe thoſe wide ſpaces which ſeparate virtue from vice. Incontinency, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, has no prologue here; the play of voluptuouſneſs opens with guilt.

Perhaps this dull and taſteleſs debauchery, which not enjoyment itſelf can animate, may be no more than a natural effect of Britiſh caprice.

The Engliſh are not at leiſure to be polite with women, and ſtill leſs to be gallant; they have only time to gratify the brutal impulſe of the conſtitution; and for ſuch debauchery the proſtitutes ſtand in no need of graces and allurements. The mind is not at all concerned in this turpitude; it is the coarſe act of the body only.

There is no mentioning the Engliſh incontinency without diſguſt and abomination.

LET-

LETTER LXXII.

The same to the same, at Pekin.

London.

THERE is not a word in all the European languages, to which a greater variety of meanings has been annexed, than to that of Liberty. Some nations, for a long time, made it consist in wearing a long beard; others in a particular kind of apparel; and not a few in speaking with a clear, distinct, and sonorous voice. Hereupon all nations, on a general comparison, have accounted those who had not this favourite privilege, to be downright slaves.

For instance; the notion of French slavery is, I believe, unalterably fixed in this monarchy. Indeed the British nation lives in great freedom; for an Englishman may rise or lie a-bed as he pleases, without incurring any penalty; at least I know of no act of parliament to the contrary. He may also cloath himself as he pleases, appear in public in full dress or in a frock. He may afterwards dispose of the morning according

cording to his fancy; take a ride to Kensington, or a walk in the park.

After these two first acts of his freedom, the government allows him to go and breakfast where he will; he may go and drink his tea at George's, or at the Smyrna Coffee-house; and in virtue of his political independency, read the news papers, which are deliberate lies against the government, or false constructions of public measures.

Breakfast does not put an end to his liberty; he can go and dine incognito at a public ordinary, and in full freedom eat and drink with a company who are strangers to him, and he to them.

His independency carries him either to Drury-lane or Convent-garden playhouse; and an Englishman being free both night and day, may go and sup at the Bedford-arms, or the Shakespear; from whence he repairs home, and rises the next morning as free as before.

LETTER LXXIII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* London.

Montpellier.

I Have ſomewhere mentioned to thee, the contraſt between the two religions of this country, but without ſaying any thing of the tyranny with which one treats the other. That of the prince, which is the Roman Catholic, keeps the Proteſtant in abſolute ſervitude.

Some people, here, are obliged to hide themſelves at doing good actions, as in other parts, at committing a bad one. Prayer, who would think it! is high treaſon: this act of devotion admits of no ſoftening, no extenuation; it is prohibited by poſitive laws.

Should thirty perſons meet in a houſe, and chuſe a mandarin of their faith to direct them in ſo ſacred a concern, and this devout meeting come to the ears of the men in power, the mandarin is hanged, and his hearers ſent to the gallies.

He who approaches travellers to rob them, and he who approaches God to call

call on his holy Name, are put on a footing; the law makes the latter equally guilty with the former, and inflicts the same punishment on both. Were barbarity itself to embrace Christianity, it could not exceed such tyranny.

For believers of this sect to be dutiful subjects, they must do nothing which has a tendency to make them such; all the external observances of religion being forbidden them. Woe be to them if they do not pray so low that God alone can hear them. Though not allowed to be Christians, they are at full liberty to be Atheists; as, between an Atheist and a subject, debarred from all the offices of his religion, the difference must be very slender.

In all civil contracts among Protestants, the law enjoins them to apostatize: thus their first step towards being Christians is a formal breach of those virtues, which alone can make them so. The religionists are obliged to be present at the rites of a worship which they hold to be false, and to perform ceremonies which they, in their heart, despise and abominate, as rejected by their religion.

Auricular confession this sect accounts a ridiculous and unwarrantable practice; yet confess they must, if they intend to marry. And to whom must this confession be made? to mandarins, who being of a different communion, are, of course, judged to be very unqualified for this office; so that here the sacrament of marriage is always preceded by a sacrilege. These observations, to which the Protestants are compelled, have, by long experience, been known to make no proselytes; and yet the compulsion still continues.

Certainly they who thus continually prostitute their religion, must, at the bottom, have little regard to it.

I may perhaps have occasion hereafter to send thee a memorial, drawn up by a private subject of this province, and inscribed to the sovereign, who, in all appearance, will never read it; for, in this point, so prejudiced are the kings of France, that they will not have their eyes opened.

LET-

LETTER LXXV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

IT was a good thought of this nation for enriching itſelf, to intermeddle with the continent; as otherwiſe it would be the pooreſt in Europe. It cannot ſubſiſt of itſelf: at leaſt, moſt part of its natural wants are ſupplied from abroad.

The figure it makes among the other powers in Europe, is entirely owing to money: in war it purchaſes alliances by large ſubſidies, and in peace it fills up the void of its wants by ſkill and induſtry.

It muſt pay for taſte, and buy genius.

The great men cannot do without Italians to build their dwellings; all the variety of furniture is of foreign invention; their faſhions they import; not one of them is originally Engliſh.

Every coiffure put on a woman's head owes its form and arrangement to the genius of ſome other nation.

It

It is no otherwiſe in regard to men's apparel. I was, not long ſince, with a nobleman, whoſe dreſs was a kind of univerſal map; all the four parts of the globe had clubbed to it. His ſhirt was from Holland, the lace on his frock French, his waiſtcoat India dimity, his buckles from Brazil, his ruffles from Bruſſels, his watch from Geneva, his ſnuff-box from Paris, his gloves from Grenoble, &c. every thing about him was foreign, even to his tooth-pick caſe: ſo that had every nation claimed back its produce or manufacture, all remaining to his lordſhip would have have been only his frock.

As little are their entertainments of Engliſh growth; they are beholden to Italy for their opera; the compoſers come from Naples, and the performers from Rome or Venice. In all the moſt applauded concerts, the principal hands and voices are foreigners; theſe levy genteel incomes by a tax, on tickling the ear.

It ſeems ſcarce worth while to croſs the ſea, and take a world of pains to acquire a wealth, which is diſſipated in a multitude of things merely ſhowy, and which,

which, consequently, one may very well do without.

LETTER LXXV.

The same to the same, at Pekin.

London.

THE queen of England is not yet arrived; the ship which brings her, has, for some days past, been at sea amidst boisterous waves. The pilots here, who consult the book of weather, as our literati read books of morality, affirm, that this very moment she is in a great storm: thus, my dear Kie-tou-na, how high soever fortune may raise us, it does not set us above crosses and disappointments.

I have just now withdrawn from the pomps and splendors, with which this young queen is so near being encircled, to reflect on her present situation; lying perhaps in a little bed, within a wooden bedstead, the ship continually rolling, so that she cannot lye in any settled posture; sea-sick, and frighted by the clamours of the sailors; without comfort or assistance; most of her women half dead with ter-

ror; forſaken by the officers of the ſhip, who now mind nothing but the danger; for in ſuch a ſituation, all rank ceaſes; a queen then is no more than another woman. What an affliction would it be to Great Britain, ſhould the ſhip, with this valuable charge, be overwhelmed and buried in the tumultuous ocean!

By this delay, however, and the diſtreſſes accompanying it, her reception will only be the more brilliant. Were it not for this ſtorm, half the dreſſes of the men and women would not have been ready; had the ſhip arrived as expected, a great part of England could not have made that ſhow, in which it will now appear. This hurricane may have brought into being two or three thouſand ſuits of cloaths, and twice the number of ſacks and gowns.

Chriſtians are right in ſaying there is a Providence in every thing; their holding a concatenation of ſecond cauſes, makes them draw ſome advantage even from misfortunes.

LET-

LETTER LXXVI.

The same to the same, at Pekin.

London.

THERE is a sort of disease prevailing very much among the English gentry, which may not improperly be called expatriation. A young gentleman, on his leaving the college, leaps into a post-chaise, and hastens out of England, to ramble over Europe.

The reason given for this is, that travelling enlarges the understanding, and is a great ornament to the mind. The great variety of knowledge gained by it is, indeed, something very astonishing; for an Englishman, by travelling abroad, sees cities, knows inns, figures in the walks, goes to balls, plays, and other entertainments, associates with actresses, &c. &c. This is here called travelling; and every Englishman of any thing of a genteel education, has made the tour of Europe in this manner.

I believe I could pretty well conform to the ways of a Briton, who had never been out of the vortex of London; but

I could ſcarce bear thoſe of an Engliſhman with his travelled improvements: the airs, manner of ſpeech, and every part of the behaviour, he then affects, utterly claſh with the genuine Engliſh temper.

Every nation in Europe has a ſufficiency of faults and imperfections, without the addition of others, which not being exotic, are more unbecoming and ridiculous. Beſides, the Engliſh in ſix months will make a greater progreſs in matters of affectation, than other nations in ten years.

The other day I was ſhewn a lord, who, after ſpending only three months at Paris, is returned a greater coxcomb than a young French marquis, who has lived there thirty years. The court at St. James's is beholden to that of France for a ſet of Engliſh courtiers, who, by having ſpent ſix months at Verſailles, are ſui géneris, not to be parallelled.

That of Vienna ſends back Britons quite of another ſtamp. The ſtiffneſs of deportment contracted there, would make them be taken for Germans.

Thoſe Engliſh, who viſit Italy, likewiſe ſhew that they have not loſt their time,

time, pestering all companies with the Ariettes they have heard there, but strangely murdering both the words and tune. A Briton, after spending six months at Naples, is perpetually humming songs.

The travelling ladies of quality are not backward in affectation, or rather make more rapid improvements in it than the very men. I was lately in company with a lady, who, because she had spent six months at Blois, and three months at Pisa, will speak only French or Italian; it seems, since her travels, the English language is so harsh, that it perfectly hurts her mouth. I know another, whom her passion for travelling carried as far as Constantinople and such a liking has she taken to the seraglio dress, that she constantly wears it. The breeches, she says, give an air of decency and majesty, whereas a petticoat has something libidinous and effeminate, and not at all suitable to the natural gravity of the sex. Having acquired a great deal of knowledge, with other mental accomplishments, she proposes to publish a learned work, shewing the conveniency and dignity of Turkish

 breeches;

breeches; and for the better edification of the London ladies, it is to be printed in the Turkiſh language.

LETTER LXXVII.

The ſame to the Mandarin Cotao-yu-ſe *at* Pekin.

London.

HOW ſtrangely induſtrious European women are, in ſpoiling thoſe graces which render them lovely and amiable! That beauty, which gives them the ſuperiority over men, generally, through their own fault, renders them contemptible and odious.

When I am in a mixed company, with the baronet, he never ſees a fine woman but he whiſpers to me, that he could lay any thing ſhe is ſilly, haughty, and aſſuming; and, unhappily for the fair ſex of England, I have obſerved that, were I to take him up, the winnings would almoſt ever be on his ſide.

Being, not long ſince, in an aſſembly of perſons of rank of both ſexes: mind, ſaid he, there is lady — to be ſure, ſhe is a fine woman, but withall ſo vain and proud

proud of her beauty, that ſhe is a perfect torture to all about her. For my part, I had rather tug at an oar in a Malteſe galley, than be condemned to live with ſuch an imperious creature; not, continued he, but a little pride fits well on a pretty woman; men, almoſt univerſally, being apt to think cheaply of thoſe who do not awe them by ſomething of an air of ſuperiority. It is only the quantity which hurts, and unfortunately that of our Britiſh women is generally ſo large as to be quite offenſive.

In France, women are too much taken up with their entertainments and diverſions, to think of their beauty: they have ſcarce time enough to be gay, ſprightly, and merry.

The Engliſh women, naturally lifeleſs and indolent, are perpetually, from morning till night, thinking on their beauty; and this leaves them full leiſure to be proud. Wretched, inexpreſſibly wretched is he, who happens to be caught here by the charms of a fine face: a captive in Algiers is a prince to him; he muſt truckle to his beauty's humours and diſdains, muſt bear with her deſires and averſions, run the gantlet of her arrogance and gid-

dineſs, through an infinite train of torments. However, the Engliſh are beginning to recover from their infatuation for beauty; and their own pride ſets them above the pride of a fine face; otherwiſe indeed, Great-Britain, in a little time, would be the iſland of ſlaves.

LETTER LXXVIII.

The ſame to the ſame at Pekin.

London.

INSTEAD of wiſe people, whom I expected to find in Europe, I every where meet with nothing but national prejudices. What is wiſdom in one country, is looked upon as ſillineſs in another.

The Engliſh hold the French in contempt for their loquacity, and the French deſpiſe the Engliſh for their taciturnity; the latter ruin themſelves by horſes, and the former by equipages: theſe are ſprightly, thoſe moroſe, and delighting in gloomineſs, whilſt the others are all for gaiety. The French conform to faſhions, the Engliſh know no rule but their own humour. The French ſpend

a great

great part of their lives at ladies toilets and aſſemblies; the Britons in feaſting at home, or at taverns, or beer houſes. The former are ſober, the latter drunkards; theſe ſhorten their days by hunting, thoſe by ſitting up late, &c. &c.

Between the vices of both nations, there is certainly a path leading to wiſdom; folly is at the two extremes, and virtue in the centre: Thus it is here in morality, as in phyſics, bodies are ever carried from their centre.

LETTER LXXIX.

The ſame to the Mandarin Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THOU deſireſt to know the ſprings of this government, and in what manner its politics are conducted; both which I ſhall now lay before thee.

When a deliberation of importance is on foot, the talk of the public is liſtned to; the votes in coffee-houſes, and other meetings of politicians, are collected; and when the prevailing party

has reported that every thing is ready, the parliament meets and consents to the deliberation. At this the weaker party raise a mighty outcry; they very well know, that no regard will be paid to all their noise; and on this very account they make the more.

Before that session of parliament in which the great affair of the peace was to be decided, whispers and murmurs portended great combustions in the kingdom; whilst either indignation or dismay were to be seen in most countenances.

I myself was afraid it would end in nothing less than a revolution; but a a member of the house of commons revived my spirits, whispering to me, that the court party would carry the day, and get the better of that of the country by sixty odd votes. It fell out exactly as he had foretold; so that, for my part, I thought this gentleman could be nothing less than a sorcerer; but my baronet tells me that England is full of such sorcerers; and he himself assured me that he was of the number.

Sir, said I, be so kind then as to teach me this art, so convenient in politics; for to know before-hand what

is

is to come to paſs, ſaves a great deal of laborious reflection; and this you may the more readily do, as it is of no injury to the public; for your ſorcery ſeems to be very far from a ſtate ſecret.

Far indeed, anſwered he; it is a thing of public knowledge, and that is what makes England ſo full of ſorcerers: well then, the whole miſtery of this magic is this:

Every Engliſhman has a liſt of all the members of parliament, divided into four claſſes, the court members, the country members, the fluctuating members, and the undetermined members. The two former are compared, without minding the two latter; that is, a computation is made which has the majority of votes, the court or the country, and by how many; and hereupon it is judged how the deliberations of the parliament will go.

That is very plain and eaſy, ſaid I; and ſuch a calculation, I ſuppoſe, ſerves for ever. No, no, replied he haſtily; there muſt be a new one, at leaſt, every ſeſſions, for the fluctuating fix the undetermined; they who held with the coun-

try

try go over to the king; but it is very seldom seen that any of the latter party shift sides; as if the king had something of an attractive virtue, which having once taken effect, the adhesion is inseparable.

The London academy of sciences is soon to examine whether gold has not a gravitating virtue which biasses bodies; and whether, for instance, a pension of two thousand pounds sterling per annum is not this very gravitating virtue.

The making of this experiment, it is said, will lay open the whole magic of English policy.

LETTER LXXX.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-san *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

NO singular character, whatever it is, escapes me; and Paris is not the only place in the kingdom abounding with such; they are likewise to be met with in the country.

I was lately told of a person in this city, who from a mean situation had raised him-

himself to the highest pitch of fortune; so that he counts his wealth by millions. I was desiring of seeing him, having always imagined that a great elevation implied great talents: but the visit I paid to this upstart has convinced me, that if it be a rule, it has its exceptions; and I am now thoroughly persuaded that an insatiable thirst of gold, and an ardent eagerness after riches, may supply the want of genius and capacity.

This creature is night and day haunted by the evil spirit of avarice; instead of sleeping, his head is running on accompts; neither can he properly be said to be awake in the day-time, being quite absorbed in gain. His grasping hands are never at rest; he has at present on his hands seventy different enterprizes, but all very far short of his ambition. He is about engrossing all the affairs of the province; then he intends to deal for the whole kingdom; and that done, he has thoughts of underfarming Europe; and should he live much longer, we may expect to hear of him in Asia.

Of the four and twenty hours, so indefatigable is his passion, he gives twenty

twenty to bufinefs, with only four for the table and bed.

The morning I went to him, being poft day, he had fat up writing the whole night; as my intention was to found his genius, I put into his hands a new money plan, as an invention of my own; and which was to bring in half a million of crowns. I explained it to him; when at the word crowns, he left off writing, looked at me with a ftupid face, and ftammered out his anfwer to my plan; fo that I perceived he had utterly miftaken it.

Inftead of being difcouraged, I entered on other fubjects, and infenfibly drew him in to talk of money affairs, as public finances, and various branches of commerce; but his anfwer fhewed him to have but a very fhallow and narrow capaicty. I could perceive in him no marks of a fuperior genius, whom nothing efcapes, who inftantly comprehends whatever is propofed to his confideration; nothing of that luminous penetration which immediately underftands a plan in all the feveral parts, fo that I abruptly left him, not a little nettled

at

at fortune for beſtowing her favours ſo very much amiſs.

This wretch however is not without his parts; but they conſiſt in rolls of parchment, writings and minutes, where application is more required than genius. He is alſo poſſeſſed of other mechanical qualities, ever deſpiſed by great men, as wearing out genius, rather than improving it. Then he is a dull, heavy fellow, ſluggiſhly laborious, owing all his gains to dint of care and toil; and who, were he not ſtimulated by gain, would be a mere cumber-ground. I don't know whether I could not call him fortune's aſs, or the ſumpter horſe of wealth.

He who is at ſuch pains to get, thou wilt readily conceive, does not intend to enjoy his gains; the money he ſcrapes up rather belongs to his ſtrong box than himſelf; inſtead of being the lord paramount of his wealth, covetouſneſs makes him only its vaſſal and ſlave.

LET-

LETTER LXXXI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE baronet, who is a veteran adept in the wiles of the fair ſex, was lately ſaying to me, that he had dropped all acquaintance with women, who ſet up for prudery and ſentiment: I mean, ſaid he, thoſe with their ſham qualms, who ſicken at the very name of a proſtitute, but in their charity readily forgive ſuch of their ſex, whom an invincible inclination, as their word is, draws and fixes to one ſingle object.

I have almoſt ever found theſe words of ſentiment and virtue to be, with them, only mere ſounds: for as to virtue, I know but two ways; either a woman is virtuous, and then ſhe will immediately, with diſdain, turn the deaf ear to any offers which may injure her honour; or ſhe is not, and then all her ſentiment and delicacy amount to no more than a refinement of vice; and ſo in

in the laſt caſe I deſpiſe her as much as a common drab. For I maintain, that a woman who carries on a criminal commerce with one man, is no leſs guilty than ſhe who admits many. I argue thus:

If the virtuous part of the ſex be not allowed to travel in the country of St. Cythere, I ſay, indulge me the expreſſion, that ſhe who travels a hundred miles there on the ſame horſe, is as much an object of contempt as ſhe, who, in the ſame ſpace of ground, ſhifts horſes ten times; for the guilt lying in the journey, the relais are of no manner of conſequence.

It were to be wiſhed, that the police would make one laſt effort for excluding from ſociety thoſe heroic ſticklers for virtue, who lead to guilt through windings and mazes, to which the very hacknied proſtitutes are ſtrangers.

There is nothing I am ſo much afraid of, added he, as thoſe women, whoſe ſqueamiſh delicacy bluſhes up to the ears at a double entendre; but ſhall give themſelves up to what they are pleaſed to call an invincible love.

Open

Open debauchery a man of any taſte inſtantly rejects, as boldly ſhewing itſelf in its proper colours; whereas the moſt diſcreet men may be drawn in by a voluptuouſneſs, which wraps itſelf up in ſuch virtuous externals.

The caſuiſts in love may make diſtinctions to the end of the world; but I do aver, that in whatever mode or way a woman gives herſelf up to guilt, ſhe is neither better nor worſe than a common whore: the only difference is, that the latter is induced by hire.

LETTER LXXXII.

The ſame to the ſame, at Pekin.

London.

THE day before yeſterday the queen arrived in England. She was to have landed at a ſeat of the king's on the Thames, but the winds ordered it otherwiſe, and it is they on which moſt events depend here. Within a few hours after ſhe was married at the palace of St. James's.

Every European court has it's ceremonial. On the king of France's marriage,

riage, he goes ſeveral leagues to meet the lady; whereas in England the intended bride comes to the very palace of the king her ſpouſe, and preſents herſelf to him on her knees. The former of theſe cuſtoms is the more gallant; but the latter, in my opinion, is more agreeable to the hoſpitality of hymen, which forbids any breach of a tie, after coming ones ſelf to form it. To this perhaps it may be owing, that the kings of France, in general, do not obſerve the matrimonial laws ſo ſtrictly as the Engliſh monarchs.

The arrival of this young princeſs at London brought together an inconceivable concourſe of people; all eagerly ſtriving to ſee her; happy he that could get the beſt ſight of her. All the kings and queens of the univerſe might go and come for me; yet the firſt ſtep of the marriage ſtruck me; ſo that I mingled with the crowd, and found means to get a place at the little gate of the park garden, where was to be the firſt interview. What a variety of emotions muſt a young princeſs feel, who within the ſhort ſpace of four hours paſſes through ſo many different conditions; from

from a princess, becomes a queen; from a maiden, a wife; marrying a king, and lying with a man!

The emotions which first shewed themselves in her countenance I could not see, none but the royal family being present at her first interview with the king; but going to court three hours after, I saw her on the throne with George III. Couldst thou think it? majesty sat as easy on her as if she had been used to it. All the pomp and state of her going to chapel, when she was preceded and followed by the whole kingdom, made not the least alteration in her; she seemed only as rehearsing a part she thoroughly knew before.

LETTER LXXXIII.

The same to the same, at Pekin.

London.

THOU wouldst know the cause of English sullenness, and callest on me to make good my promise, of informing you, to what it is owing that this people is not merry.

Most

Most of those who hitherto have pretended to study the origin of this humour, attribute it to the climate; for to charge the winds with the temper of a people, whom otherwise we cannot define at all, brings the matter to an issue at once; and thus saves a multitude of investigations.

I allow the climate to have some share in the gloomy disposition of these people; but that is not all; the political constitution has likewise no small influence on their humours. Men who govern themselves, or who conceive they govern themselves, must, of course, be full of business; and this continual succession of political occupations brings with it a kind of uneasiness, which is within a step or two of melancholy. A nation which is ever tampering with itself, and thus every moment feels its sore places, cannot but be thoughtful.

The French are not so much taken up with the concerns of their monarchy, as to affect their natural hilarity; they live in the uninterrupted benignity of their climate; the government exempts them from all political uneasiness, so far taking that care of itself, as even forbidding them

to

to intermeddle with ſtate affairs. This muſt very much heighten their ſprightlineſs; for a people with nothing to do but to think on diverſions and take its pleaſure, is naturally merry.

I have ſeen Engliſhmen change countenance, and been vapoured for twenty-four hours ſucceſſively, on a piece of news, which would not have given a quarter of an hour's uneaſineſs to any French politician.

But beſides politics and the climate, there is ſtill a moral cauſe of this national ſeriouſneſs.

Some of their doctors, on what grounds is beſt known to themſelves, have promulgated, that gaiety was one of the greateſt obſtacles to wiſdom; as if virtue was the daughter of mourning and ſadneſs. This is caſting a ſhade on heaven; it is darkening light itſelf.

A philoſopher of theirs * has ſaid, that laughing proceeds only from our pride: very true; there being no alteration in the features of our faces which is not derived from that principle: but he forgot, in that remark, to obſerve, that

* Hobbes.

ſerioufneſs and gravity are ſtill ſtronger proofs of that ridiculous and unſociable paſſion. Morality, in reforming a fault, ſhould be very careful not to ſubſtitute in its ſtead another ſtill more blameable.

The French are gay and merry out of vanity, the Engliſh are grave and ſerious from pride; ſo that all the real difference is only in the alteration of the features: both manifeſt their vanity; one in opening their mouth, the others in keeping it ſhut.

Merriment and laughter, in conſequence of the above principle, have been ſuppoſed indecent; but ſuch conſequences proceed from moraliſts overdoing morality.

A man, without being any thing of a philoſopher, ſees that exceſſive merriment and immoderate laughter are offences againſt decency. This the bare rules of civil ſociety teach. The dictate of wiſdom is to obſerve a juſt medium. Are we to ceaſe being virtuous, becauſe virtue itſelf, carried to an extreme, becomes a vice? Though the effuſions of the heart and the extacies of the ſoul may ſometimes have ſome exceſſive burſts, and thus

thus become indecent, are we therefore to sadden nature, and be men only in such respects as mortify mankind?

In a word, such an odd way of reasoning derives from this source: in Europe philosophy itself is full of pride, and every thing is corrupted, even to the very laws of wisdom.

LETTER LXXXIV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

IN France men are at an immense distance from one another; there are, as it were, barriers, separating the several classes, and making them so many distinct worlds: the nobleman's palace may be said to be a thousand leagues from the dwelling of his inferior.

In England all classes are jumbled together; the nation makes but one body; the lowest of the community mingle with the highest: they are seen together in publick and private companies. When I am in a political humour, I betake

take myſelf to a coffee-houſe, where ſeveral peers of the realm talk over ſtate-affairs.

When tired with ſtate-affairs, I ſhift my ſtation, and repair to another place of reſort, where prelates and other dignitaries diſcourſe of eccleſiaſtical points.

When I am for hearing a commercial lecture, I walk a walk to the 'Change, and in all the neighbouring coffee-houſes, I am ſure of finding merchants confabulating together about traffic.

The ſeafaring claſs hold their conferences in beer-houſes, and their topic is trade and navigation; for here all the concerns of the ſtate are of public notoriety.

Strangers may enquire, and the natives are as free to inform them. Here is no inquiſition in church or ſtate; the field of political reflections is open to every one. This is a country where intelligence may be had with little difficulty, and no danger.

When the great place-men depart ever ſo little from the courſe laid down by the law, the people has a right of cenſuring them; and this principle being

inherent in the conſtitution, no body is, afraid of its being ſuppreſſed by any particular order.

Whether ſuch general freedom tends to the preſervation of public order, I ſhall not take on me to ſay. Some governments it may ſuit.

LETTER LXXXV.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

I Lately ſaw the ruins of a temple dedicated to fortune; and after being raiſed by opulence, overthrown by indigence. Never did theſe two extremities meet ſo cloſely: the edifice was demoliſhed before it was quite built.

It was an enchanted palace, in the centre of a waſte, which art and wealth had converted into a paradiſe. The builder of it was a citizen here, who by his employment had acquired immenſe ſums.

Theſe prodigious fortunes, together with the oſtentation accompanying them, are

are a ſure ſign of ſome fault in the conſtitution; at leaſt, they betray a want of attention in the government. Such opulence cannot be acquired without malverſation and breach of public probity; conſequently they whoſe buſineſs it is to take care of the common intereſt, muſt be remiſs in their office; for were they vigilant and uncorrupt, never would they ſuffer ſuch exorbitant monopolies.

The progreſſes of an ambitious perſon in his way to elevation, depending on the more or leſs reſiſtance of thoſe who can check his career, it may, in this caſe, be ſaid that he who is of himſelf corrupt, is leſs to blame than thoſe who ſuffer themſelves to be corrupted by him.

A certain man's ſon, in the twinkling of an eye, diſſipated the prodigious fortune which his father had left him. There may be ſomething of providence in theſe ſquanderings, as making reſtitution to the public of what avidity had taken from it, and bringing in to the general circulation of ſpecie, vaſt ſums which had been withdrawn from it: thoſe prodigalities are really neceſſary.

What hurt would it have been to the public, had this wealthy ſon, with ſuch an immenſe fortune already acquired, been of the ſame rapacious and ſtingy diſpoſition as his father, and practiſed the ſame means of increaſing ſuch opulence, by which it had been acquired. He muſt have ingroſſed the whole province, and thus the fortune of every private perſon in it.

In a ſtate where the love of gain is exorbitantly prevalent, where ambition knows no bounds, where avidity is continually extending itſelf, where every means for acquiring wealth is held juſt and excuſeable, a regulation ſhould be made againſt a few ſubjects laying their hands on all property; that is, the fortunes of individuals ſhould be limited by expreſs laws. Such a regulation might be called the *pragmatic** *ſanction of ambition*.

They who ſet no bounds to their avidity will be ſure to exclaim againſt ſuch a law, as downright tyranny: but a coercion on individuals for the public

* Name of ſome regulations in France for reſtraining the exorbitances of papal power.

eaſe

eaſe, is real liberty. I ſay, that this law would intrinſically be entirely cònſiſtent with freedom, as will appear to any one who conſiders the nature of the human heart.

Ambition, at its birth, is always moderate; the deſires of acquiring are, as it were, a ſcaffold work; one platform of wealth ſerves to get up to the other: the climber is in the way to fortune, he gets higher and higher, and having reached the top, is himſelf quite amazed at the way he has made; ſo that he always goes much farther than he had dreamed of at firſt ſetting out.

I will ſuppoſe every individual of this kingdom, at his entrance on the purſuit of wealth, to be ſummoned before a court, and here fixed, after long labour and application, to a fortune of one hundred thouſand crowns, after which he is to ſet down in a rational enjoyment of it. I dare ſay there is not one who would not readily agree to ſuch a limitation: where then would be the tyranny of a law, for hindering any one to paſs thoſe bounds which he had preſcribed to himſelf?

LETTER LXXXVI.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Cotao-yu-ſe, *at* Pekin.

London.

A French woman's tongue is in perpetual motion, and that of the Engliſh ſeldom ſtirs; the former are parrots, and the latter dumb creatures. I ſhould readily give the preference to the latter, did not their taciturnity throw ſuch a deadneſs on life. The Paris women deafen you; with thoſe of London you cannot help yawning. I am no ſooner got out of one extreme than I fall into another. Not that I approve of thoſe eternal talkers, whoſe tongue is ever ringing ſome peal or other; but I diſlike that obſtinate ſilence which turns reaſonable creatures into ſtatues.

When in company with Engliſh women, I ſeem to be in an apartment full of pictures of beauties, to each of which the painter has given a different attitude, and nothing but ſpeech is wanting.

I could almoſt ſay, that in Europe nature does but half finiſh her work, ſomething

something still is wanting; either the climate has too great, or not a sufficient influence.

For a woman to be in a just medium with regard to vivacity and the use of her tongue, I am inclined to think she should be born in England, and brought up in France; as then her frigid constitution would correct the excessive fire of the French climate; and a French education would enliven the heaviness and languor of an English constitution.

In saying that the English women speak little, I do not mean that their strict silence proceeds from reflection; this would make it a virtue, as then they would speak and be silent only in due season; a maxim which, in that sex, comprehends all the duties of civil life. Instead of flowing from so praise-worthy a cause, it is rather owing to a natural bashfulness, or a barrenness of genius; they cannot speak, because they have nothing to say.

Do not however imagine that the English women are absolute mutes; no, no, they are true women, and in certain respects more so than those of other nations. With all their demureness in some

cases, they are very noisy in others; that is, when trifles, punctilios, fashions, &c. are on the carpet.

For instance, they are of an inexhaustible fluency on dress. They cannot open their mouths without pompoons and gewgaws to set their spirits afloat. Their tongues will run for days together on the advantages and disadvantages of a new mode.

I was lately with six English ladies, who, the night before had been at the opera, where they had seen two strangers dressed in their way; they would scarce have patience to sit down before they took them to pieces, from the coiffure down to the shoes inclusive. This was a sublime and copious subject: accordingly, the questions and answers followed each other with incredible volubility; so that though I have been pretty much used to the company of the Paris women, never in my whole life was I so dinned.

Farther, the English women are of a very ready loquacity in bringing the behaviour of others of their own sex into suspicion. How shrewd their reflections! what

what longwinded amplifications of every circumſtance! there is no end of it!

But the great day for garrulity is Sunday, after, what is here called, evening ſervice. This ſervice muſt have ſome great virtue in it, as working a total change in them. They are no ſooner at home than they overflow with words, and launch into verboſe diſſertations on all thoſe of their ſex whom they have ſeen at church; their carriage, their dreſs, even to the leaſt ribbon, undergoes a prolix criticiſm. On theſe occaſions an Engliſh woman will out talk three French.

In France there is a claſs of bonzes called Carthuſians, who particularly devote themſelves to ſilence; but leſt they they ſhould totally loſe their ſpeech, their ſuperiors allow them, once or twice a week, to ſpeak at certain times, which are called *recreations*. Some, who are are not Carthuſians, and have been with them during theſe recreations, ſay, that no clatter in the world can equal the chattering of thoſe devout recluſes.

Checking nature is to no purpoſe, it will break out ſome way or other. Rivers confined by dykes are only the more

impetuous on any breach in thoſe barriers.

When the Engliſh women, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, open the ſluices of words, they deluge a company; but the misfortune is, that inſtead of irrigating the intellectual faculties it is all mere noiſe. Now wherefore break ſilence to ſay nothing? of the two, ſilence is certainly better than vapid or impertinent diſcourſe.

LETTER LXXXVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

Bath.

THERE are two ſeaſons in the year at London when the quality fall ſick; it is an eſtabliſhed faſhion to be indiſpoſed at thoſe times, on purpoſe to go and drink mineral waters at a little town called Bath. A lord, who ſhould be ſo ſtubborn as to be in good health during thoſe two ſeaſons, would be looked on as one who knew nothing of genteel life. Sometimes the number of theſe faſhionable Valetudinarians at Bath has been

been known to amount to about three or four thousand.

In order to a complete knowledge of a nation, it must be followed even to its infirmities; and this being the season of indispositions, I was for imitating the fashion, and went to Bath: I indeed made this journey the more willingly, my baronet having himself proposed the party.

The place of daily rendezvous at Bath is a large saloon. The day after our arrival my lord N—, who was to set out the day following for court, entertained the company with tea. This is the way here of taking leave, and in France would be called the *stirrup cup*. The saloon was like a monastery's refectory, with three rows of tables, reaching from one end to the other: my lord stood at the door to receive the company, and, as they came in, gave directions for their being placed. I heard him often, as he passed by me, complain that he should not have much company; and indeed, I believe, four hundred men, and three hundred women were the most; the greater part of the latter were born in queen Anne's days. I don't know

that

that ever in my life I was with ſo many generations in one and the ſame place. My baronet aſſured me that we were in a company of two hundred and fifty centuries. Never did the world ſee an aſſembly more venerable, in reſpect of antiquity, ſo that the entertainment ſeemed to be given by the eternal father. A chronologiſt perplexed about ſettling the epocha of the univerſe, needed but have added all thoſe ages together and his work had been done; the total would have given the creation of the world.

The Engliſh go to Bath for pleaſure. It muſt be owned, that it is a place of high entertainment: in the morning they ſwill hot water out of a pump; afterwards take their walks to digeſt it; dine at two with people one knows nothing of; in the afternoon dreſs, and in the evening repair to a large hall, crowded like a market place, and there play at cards till midnight; the next day they go on the ſame round, and this to keep themſelves in good ſpirits.

There is indeed twice a week a ball, and that is highly diverting indeed; thirty or forty women, with a like number of men, dance, or rather romp about

for

for four hours without respite. I have been told that these waters formerly had a coactive virtue, I mean, that they were of admirable efficacy for promoting marriages; but, at present, they are quite degenerated, all their effect terminating in some gallant adventures: their virtue is also said to be no longer the same; once they were specifics for the gout and gravel; now, they are in great vogue for impotency. Many a woman, after a vexatious sterility at London, become pregnant at Bath; but to this it is requisite that they drink the waters with brawny Irishmen, who come from Dublin to Bath purely to practise this branch of medicine.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi *at* Bath.

To his moſt ſacred Majeſty Lewis XVth. *King of* France, *the humble Petition of his moſt faithful Subjects of the Province of* Languedoc.

Montpellier.

SIR,

"IT is only under equitable princes "that are ſeen the fruits of that no-"ble juſtice by which kingdoms flou-"riſh.

"It is only under happy governments "that tyranny is forced to hide itſelf, "and every individual is reſtored to his "natural and municipal rights. Laſtly, "it is only in enlightened times that "ſound policy, breaking the chains of "blind prejudice, riſes above the views "of a miſtaken zeal.

"Theſe happy days, ſir, being now "come in France, your faithful ſub-"jects, the proteſtants of Languedoc, "and through their voice thoſe of all "the towns in the kingdom, humbly

intreat

" intreat your majesty to grant them
" the free exercise of their religion.

" We think we may with the greater
" confidence ask this favour, our ene-
" mies, who presided in the council of
" conscience of king Lewis the XIVth,
" your great grandfather of glorious
" memory, being now no more; the
" breath of God has dispersed them;
" the reign of those vain and haughty
" men, who make christian humility a
" cloak for their inordinate ambition, is
" at end.

" Their wickedness being now openly
" manifest, we humbly beseech your
" majesty that we may no longer be
" the victims of a council, which, un-
" der the pretence of the cause of God,
" aimed only at worldly advantages.

" Did we, sir, retain any resentment
" of the fatal blow given us by the re-
" peal of the edict of Nantz, we would
" leave things as they are, without a
" thought of any alteration; for, of all
" the misfortunes which have fallen on
" France for several centuries, the per-
" secution of us is that by which it has
" most suffered. But what we seek in
" our re-establishment is the glory of
" God,

" God, the national profperity, and your
" majefty's greatnefs.

" Moft of the fovereigns of Europe,
" at prefent, have feen into the miftaken
" notion that a plurality of religions
" weakens a ftate. Of this they who
" have governed France fince our per-
" fecution muft have known the falfity,
" but from private views they left things
" as they are.

" The malevolence infeparable from
" party fpirit has tried all ways to caft a
" fufpicion on us; but, fir, our attach-
" ment to the crown is unqueftionable.
" Our intire refignation to the laws, our
" ready conformity to our duty, our un-
" referved fubmiffion to your MAJESTY's
" orders, are palpable proofs of our
" fidelity.

" Our enemies have often fuggefted
" to the government, that we would
" take advantage of any troubles in Eu-
" rope to difturb France. The late times
" have feen feveral wars, and not a word
" was heard about us.

" So far from laying hold of thofe
" turbulent junctures to raife commo-
" tions in the kingdom; fo far from

" leaguing

" leaguing with your majeſty's enemies, " we have exerted ourſelves to the ut- " moſt in oppoſing their deſigns.

" Though excluded from military " employments, a great number of your " proteſtant ſubjects, animated by a loyal " indignation at the injuſtice of your " enemies, in declaring war againſt you, " have taken arms and expoſed their " lives for your ſervice. To make their " zeal more effectual, they have con- " cealed their religion. Moſt of your " ſubaltern officers, who have ſignalized " themſelves in the late wars, are pro- " teſtants of different provinces of the " kingdom. Though they cannot con- " form to the maſs, they believe in you; " and never will you find them heretics " when called on to uſe their arms, and " riſque their lives for the glory of the " throne, the happineſs of the ſtate, " and the welfare of your people.

" This, ſir, will not appear in the " leaſt ſtrange to you, when you are in- " formed of the maxims in which we " bring up our children. We publicly " teach them *that the king is the image of* " *the God of heaven, and his vice-gerent* " *on earth; that of whatever religion the*

" *prince*

"*prince be, he is to be obeyed, without re-*
"*serve or limitation; that no difference*
"*in the sovereign's religion dispenses the*
"*subjects from any of their duties, &c.*
"*&c.* Those protestants among us, if
"any such their be, who hold the con-
"trary, we look on as professing a dif-
"ferent religion from ours.

"The ministry are continually de-
"liberating on means for peopling the
"kingdom, which successive wars have
"drained of inhabitants. The means,
"sir, is in your hands; it is only re-
"storing the free exercise of the pro-
"testant religion, and your majesty will
"immediately see your provinces again
"swarming with industrious people.

"Multitudes will flock from Hol-
"land, England, Prussia, and most parts
"of Germany, where they remain, only
"waiting for happier times to return
"into France, to which they belong
"either by birth or descent.

"The sons and grandsons of those
"protestants will, with joy return into
"the kingdom, as soon as the ob-
"stacle which keeps them out shall be
"removed. They daily long after their
"native country; and even those who
"are

"are born abroad, ſtill account themſelves foreigners there. They are under no other tye to the nations, where they live, than the free exerciſe of their religion. Reſtore to them the like free exerciſe, and ſoon will they mingle with your other ſubjects.

"One ſingle arret can overthrow the manufactures of foreign ſtates, and this is an overthrow which would greatly weaken their power. One ſingle order from you would bring back into France that induſtry, which the repeal of the edict of Nantz drove away. Though it be now above twelve luſtres ſince that unhappy revolution, our trades and arts are ſtill far from being thoroughly naturalized in thoſe foreign climates; and ſhould the deſcendants of the French proteſtants return to their original home, the very firſt elements and traces of thoſe arts would ſoon be loſt.

"It is ſtrange, I take on me, ſir, to ſay, it is aſtoniſhing that the government ſhould have in its hands the certain means of diminiſhing the wealth of other nations, and of con-

"ſiderably

" ſiderably increaſing its own, and yet
" not make uſe of thoſe means.

" Your ſubjects are daily pouring
" forth their thankſgivings to heaven
" for being born under a patriot king,
" a gracious and magnanimous mo-
" narch. They bleſs God for having
" given them a ſovereign no leſs con-
" ſpicuous for the moſt ſublime virtues
" of the ſoul, than the moſt amiable
" qualities of the heart. They rejoice
" in having a mild, humane, affable, and
" compaſſionate prince, who makes it
" his chief buſineſs to promote the wel-
" fare of thoſe whom God has com-
" mitted to his care.

" Muſt it ſtill be our misfortune, ſir,
" under your auguſt reign, to be ex-
" cepted from the claſs of your happy
" people? are we to be the only ſub-
" jects in the kingdom, to whom your
" paternal bounty is not to be extended?
" and ſhall poſterity ſay, that the beſt of
" the kings of France did nothing for
" the moſt affectionate and moſt faith-
" ful of his ſubjects?

" I here ſolemnly declare to you, ſir,
" in the name of all our proteſtant bre-
" thren

"thren, that we are inviolably attached
"to you; that, next to God, there is
"nothing on earth ſo dear to us as
"yourſelf: I declare to you, that there
"is nothing which we are not ready to
"undertake in teſtimony of our reſpect
"for your ſacred perſon; and, in the
"name of all the aforeſaid proteſtants,
"I here proteſt, that our arms, lives,
"and fortunes are at your ſervice.

"We therefore again intreat your
"royal permiſſion to worſhip God in our
"churches, without incurring the pe-
"nalties of high treaſon. We requeſt
"that we may be allowed to join in our
"hymns your name with that of the
"Lord our God, and at once ſing the
"praiſes of our king in heaven, and our
"king on earth, &c. &c."

Whether this piece, my dear Kie-tou-na, will avail any thing, even though the prince ſhould read it, is what I cannot tell; but thus much is certain, that, at the court of France, ſo good a cauſe ſeldom ſucceeds.

LET-

LETTER LXXXIX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

Bath.

AT fix o'clock in the evening every body repairs to the faloon I mentioned in my laft. After feveral turns they break into parties, and go and fit down at gaming tables. There is a fort of mafter of the ceremonies here, who, among other things, fhews every one the place where he is to lofe his money.

Two evenings ago, my baronet and I went to this place of univerfal refort; we feated ourfelves near a large chimney, in the middle of the hall, as giving us a view of the whole affembly, which to me was a new world indeed.

" Sir, faid I to my companion, I am
" here in a foreign country, and fo muft
" beg your information. To be fure,
" anfwered he, and to fave you the trou-
" ble of afking a multitude of queftions,
" I fhall premife a few reflections.

" All

" All whom you ſee here, very few excepted, are valetudinarians, labouring under an incurable diſtemper, called, the ſpleen, not knowing what to do with themſelves: they, of all things, dread being alone, and thus are continually ſhunning themſelves, rambling all the year round from London to Scarborough, from Scarborough to Tunbridge, from Tunbridge to Bath, and ſo on. But they might as well ſtay at home; their diſtemper ſticks cloſe to them in all their journies; for people who are not able to fill up a void, go where they will, muſt ever find it about them. They are as uneaſy here as they are in the capital, where they make others uneaſy. I look upon this to be, in no ſmall meaſure, owing to the great number of landed men and ſtockholders; I mean people who have no other buſineſs than to ſpend their income; for merchants, lawyers, and perſons who depend on a profeſſion ſtand in no need of ſuch a reſource: how ſhould time hang on their hands, when they have ſcarce time to live?

"That is, interrupted I, all here before us have incomes from the ſtate; "no, no, anſwered he, ſome have no incomes, and their buſineſs here is to "raiſe one; this room is a kind of eſtate "to them. Not a few come to conceal "their uneaſineſſes, and forget their domeſtic vexations, which, at London, "are always preſent to them; a great "number reſort hither mechanically; "many through cuſtom; ſeveral from "tradition, having read in their family "records, that their great grandfathers "never miſſed being every year at Bath: "ſome are drawn by company, others "without any forethought or deſign; "and, as it were, only becauſe there is a "road from London to Bath.

"As to the women, it is ſeldom they "come hither, but from ſome previous "reflection. That prudent ſex never "undertakes ſuch journies at random: "they have always ſome motive or "other; a love intrigue, freedom, gaming, dancing, or the gaiety of the "place.

"Sir, ſaid I, who is that old man "walking from row to row behind the "tables, and with ſomething of a court

"after

" after him: it is my lord C—, one of " our English wits. I should know " that name, replied I I have heard it " among the Paris literati; he is said to " be a fine genius. Yes, so it is said; " at least, he is a very prudent genius, " for hitherto he has published nothing " to destroy that opinion: though far " down the hill, he is still a virgin with " respect to intellectual productions.

" I thought, said I, that to get a name " in Europe, a person must have given " notable proofs of his genius in some " excellent work, which would stand " as a lasting monument of his abi- " lities.—It was so formerly, but now a " man may be any thing upon his bare " word; and the way for this is only to " canvass that honour; for in England, " a man is made a wit just as he is made " a member of parliament. Indeed, " the distemper which kills such a wit, " likewise puts an end to his reputation; " his fame immediately rots away with " his corpse.

" Who is that other bulky lord walk- " ing almost next to him, not quite so " old, with such a conceited counte-

"nance, and who seems so well pleased "with himself? His carriage shews that "for a considerable time he must have "acted in some eminent station. Very "true, replied the baronet, he has for "above twenty years acted Sir John "Falstaff; he is a player who has lately "left the stage. After all his measuring "his words and expressing himself de- "clamatory, he is but an insipid mortal. "It is the folly of most men to come "down from the pedestal in a manner "which shewed them in the only favour- "able light. So he, after diverting the "public on the stage, must needs come "down from it to tire private companies. "Wherever he is, he affects the great "man; he is full of theatrical phrases, and "his profession betrays itself in every "thing he does. He speaks, sleeps, and "walks dramatically: never had he so "much of the stage in him as since he has "left it. He is reckoned a tip top "actor; indeed he did shine in one re- "markable character: but excellence "in a profession surely implies more "than distinction in one particular part. "What does he do now, said I? he eats

"and drinks; his capital part now is to "guttle, and the next to guzzle.

"Who is that young man, said I, "(after he had finished his account of "the player) standing three tables from "us, with such a melancholy look? some- "thing seems to lie very heavy on his "heart.——You think very right, he "has a great weight indeed; namely, "to have squandered away in less than six "years a fortune, which his fore-fathers "had been six centuries in getting.

"And who is that other almost at his "side, and who seems in no better hu- "mour? why, indeed, I don't see how he "can be very cheerful in the situation to "which he has brought himself; for he "has not only made away with a very "considerable fortune as fast as the other, "but is over head and ears in debt; the "bailiffs are continually at his heels; "so that he is here and there, and every "where, going and coming, like a mere "wandering Jew.

"That third on our left at the fourth "table, and who likewise seems to have "something of a cloud in his counte- "nance? why, that is a nobleman who "has utterly ruined himself by marriage.

" The young person here before us is " his wife; and after ruining her husband, " she is now ruining that young lord be- " hind her : but, said I, why does not " he turn off such a wife ? it is now too " late, answered he, there is no living " without a subsistance, and, at present, " my lord is supported by my lady ; but " on condition that he shall be a specta- " tor of her infamy, follow her every " where, and on a vacancy lie with her. " A most scurvy bargain, said I ; I had " rather not live at all than be supported " in such a manner.

" I should be glad to know that gen- " tleman standing before the chimney " over-against ours, and who seems afraid " of looking at any one. He is a young " Irish nobleman, immersed in the " deepest chagrin. He has married a " young woman of a bad character, whom " he is for introducing every where, and " no body will admit her : he curses the " English for their memory, and would " have every body forget that his wife " has prostituted herself to half the town. " A blockhead ! we take care not to " esteem women much, even before they " depart from virtue ; and he forsooth, " would

"would have us forget to despise them
"when they are notoriously vicious.

"More gloomy countenances, cried
"I, perceiving another Briton in a brown
"study; why, sure all the sad phizes in
"the kingdom have agreed to meet
"here! For God's sake, who is this
"young man on our left with such a
"Saturnine look. He is an unfortunate
"young nobleman, who has lost all his
"fortune at play. I could shew you
"five or six, of no small appearance here,
"who fleeced him.

"Oh! continued I, the scene of me-
"lancholly faces begins to clear up a
"little! What is that groupe under that
"large picture, who seem in such high
"spirits? They are sharpers, answered
"he: that can't be, they are in uni-
"form: but with all their uniforms,
"replied he, so it is. Those fellows,
"for I can call them no other, have
"every year their constant customers
"here; that is, their gulls, whom they
"regularly bleed to the last drop; this
"brings them in more than their com-
"missions; else how could they keep their
"girls, and revel away at the King's-
"Arms or the Bedford-head? for their

" pay every body knows. Many a ſcoun-
" drel wears the king's livery in England
" as well as in France. Hereby, added
" he, I am very far from meaning any
" reflection, there being great numbers
" of worthy gentlemen of the army, for
" whom I entertain the greateſt eſteem
" and regard.

" That luſty young fellow in em-
" broidery, and richer dreſſed than any
" perſon in the company, who can he
" be?—What you little think; he is a
" highwayman. A highwayman! ſaid I,
" quite amazed; it can't be? you ſee how
" freely he ſpeaks to the ladies. That's
" nothing; no body in England keeps
" better company than highwaymen.
" Some years ago, one of them was
" hanged with the picture of a lady of
" quality about his neck. But what
" grounds for concluding him to be
" ſuch? why, replied he, there is no
" ſuch thing as miſtaking his calling;
" for he has neither ſtock nor known
" eſtate, nor poſt at court or city, he is of
" no profeſſion, and without any talent to
" live on, yet ſpends like the firſt peer
" of the kingdom. There's his pro-
" feſſion

"fession geometrically demonſtrated to "you.

"This being ſo clear, why is he not "taken up? oh! my ſervice to you, our "laws in England allow of no ſuch ty-"rannical takings up; every ſubject is "independant: were this man to ſpend "a million ſterling a month, that's no-"thing to the government, neither is "it any magiſtrate's concern; every "highwayman is free till the inſtant of "the halter's ſtopping his breath. This "fine fellow will not be hanged till he is "convicted of a robbery.

"Yonder is another ſtrapping well-"made young fellow, in black velvet, "of a good pretty appearance: he is "now eyeing us through a glaſs? "This well-made young fellow is alſo "another highwayman. He had for "ſome time withdrawn himſelf out of "the kingdom, and it was thought that "England had got rid of him; but I "ſee he again makes his appearance. "One would think our gibbets acted "magnetically on thoſe embroidered "gentlemen, attracting them ſo, that "they are never eaſy till they make their "exit there.

"One question more and I have done, "for I think I have sufficiently exercised "your complisance: I would know some-"thing of that walking shadow, with his "cadaverous phiz. I observe, he is al-"ways in motion, takes women by the "hand, and makes them join hands with "men; methinks that is no very cre-"ditable business; at least, in France, "they give it an ugly name. He is, "indeed, an object of curiosity, said the "baronet: a traveller like you, who are "for seeing into all the weaknesses of "which the human heart is susceptible, "should be acquainted with such origi-"nals; such discoveries are more useful "than that of antiques; it being better "to understand men than buildings.

"This walking shadow is by birth a "Frenchman, and a native of Bourdeaux, "born in the year 1680, so that now he "is a young fellow of fourscore; he is "said to have danced even on the day of "his birth, and at coming out of his mo-"ther's womb to have cut two or three "capers; a sure presage of distinction in "dancing. In his youth he was sent to "London to be brought up a merchant,

"but

" but liking dancing better than com-
" merce, he ſoon left the compting houſe.
" He has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in all the
" aſſemblies in England; London, Scar-
" borough, and Tunbridge have been
" witneſſes of the agility of his motions;
" having, beſides his talents, a great deal
" of ambition, he ſollicited a very ho-
" nourable poſt in the ſaltatory way, and
" obtained the ſurvivorſhip of maſter
" of the ceremonies in this celebrated ſa-
" loon. Accordingly, after officiating ſome
" time as aſſiſtant, he, on the demiſe of
" the maſter, was unanimouſly promoted
" to the ſucceſſion. He directs minuets,
" and manages country dances; but
" the moſt important part of his buſi-
" neſs is, in matching men and women:

" That is very eaſy, ſaid I; not ſo eaſy
" as you may imagine, anſwered he; I
" aſſure you it requires ſome compaſs of
" knowledge; for inſtance, to join ſuch
" a lord with ſuch a lady, with whom he
" is in love; or to give a miſſes hand to
" a gentleman on whom ſhe has a de-
" ſign, he muſt be thoroughly acquainted
" with the intrigues of the place; as diſ-
" agreeable conjunctions would naturally
" diſturb the harmony of the dance.

" And pray does this saltatory post bring " him in any great matter? not a shil- " ling, it only gives him a great deal of " what others would think trouble. Pro- " bably, said I, then he is in easy cir- " cumstances: yes, replied the baronet, " he is so when in an easy chair: he has " a hundred pounds a year, which *scarce* " will find him in gloves and clean linen. " He is beloved and hated by the wo- " men; they whom he joins to their " mind love him; and they to whom he " gives a disagreeable partner as heartily " hate him.

LETTER XC.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

Bath.

HAVING only hunted the male game of the assembly on our first night, we went again there to reconnoitre the females. Accordingly, seating ourselves in the same place, I renewed my questions.

That fleshy middle aged woman, with pretty fine eyes, at play near the door, who

who is ſhe? ſhe has ſomething ſtately in her looks; her very face ſhews her to have acted a capital part. "Capital in-"deed, anſwered he, it is not long ſince "ſhe repreſented the firſt perſon in the "kingdom; ſhe was the channel through "which all favours were conveyed; ſhe "diſpoſed of the chief employments; "wealth and honours were in her hands; "ſhe had the keys of the temple of "fortune; her intereſt was a ſure ſtep to "preferment; but her reign is over; "her ſway lately came to a ſudden end. "After a ſplendid dream ſhe is now "awake."

Who is that young lady ſitting behind her; I could ſwear by her looks that ſomething is amiſs within. "You "would not take a falſe oath, ſaid "the knight, for her heart is almoſt "broke: ſhe had always been looked "upon as a virtuous and diſcreet perſon, "but lately a giddy young fellow has "altered the world's opinion, blabbing "of an adventure with her; but it is "not her virtue for which ſhe is ſo much "concerned, the loſs of her reputation "is the rub."

Do you know, continued I, that young perſon at the oppoſite table, and who

likewife feems fomething out of forts: what is it makes her fo melancholy? "a "change of paffions; fhe detefted her "hufband before fhe was married to "him, and now fhe adores him; whereas "the hufband adored her before he "married her, and now he detefts her. "The latter cafe, added he, is very com- "mon among us; but the former is "very feldom heard of."

I obferve, near her, a pretty young lady, but who feems likewife not to be exempt from trouble: "there again you "are right: fhe is paffionately in love "with that young lord, whom you fee "next to her: he is a very pretty gen- "tleman, and has an equal love for her: "She has fome fortune, and the noble- "man a large eftate." And why don't they marry, that they may be hap- py? "They wifh for nothing more; "but there is a little difficulty in the "way—another young lady has been "before hand with her; the young lord "is married.

"Formerly the Pope, in confideration "of a fum of money, ufed to annul "thefe engagements; but, fince the "reformation of our church, our mar-

"riages

"riages are indissoluble. There is only "one shift left, which is to carry her "off, leave wife and children, and dis- "grace himself and his dear creature's "whole family: and this will very pro- "bably be the issue; for my country- "men never play the fool by halves."

Do you know, said I, that fair beauty there, facing us, who looks with so much indifference on the finest beaus, and seems to mind nothing? "she may be "called an automaton, said he, neither "hating nor loving any one, incapable "of a passion, and yawning at the bare "mention of love. But this virtue of "hers she owes to her constitution: most "of our virtuous women in England are "of this stamp; their heart knows no- "thing of a sigh: many a husband "among us, who hugs himself for his "wife's virtue, should only bless her "constitution, and rejoice that he has "married a machine not organized for "love. The chastity of those women "costs them no conflict; they may safely "leave their honour to the care of their "frigid complexion."

But, said I, if that woman next her be not a machine of a very different make,

make, I am much miſtaken: "true, "ſhe is the very reverſe of the other; "for women here, as elſewhere, are "ever in extremes. Their conſtitution, "if it does not hurry them beyond vir- "tue, makes them fall ſhort of it. Every "ſide glance of the gentlemen ſets her in a "flame, and agitates her with a crowd of "paſſions. Tender looks melt her, lively "looks ſtimulate her, ſo that her heart "proſtitutes itſelf twenty times a day "through her eyes; and from this pro- "ſtitution to that of the body, the only "difference is opportunity. Accord- "ingly ſhe is not eſteemed a veſtal.

Who is ſhe in black, but with ſuch a giddy look as little agrees with her dreſs? "She is a young widow, who has long "coveted that appellation. Her huſband "has not been dead above a week, and "ſhe has taken ſuch good meaſures for "a ſecond marriage, that there are al- "ready four competitors for her. Some "will even ſay ſhe married a ſecond "huſband while the firſt was living, and "that ſhe waited the day of his burial for a "declaration. You ſee that in England "we have women of great forecaſt, to "guard againſt the calamities of widow-

"hood:

"hood: on the death of their known "husband they are found married to "another."

Pray who is that woman on our left, gathering about her all the gentlemen who pass by her, courtesying to one, speaking to another, whispering to this, smiling to that, and looking amorously on all? "Why it is her business to "bring a crowd about her; she is only "doing at Bath, what she does at Lon- "don: the women you see will have "nothing to say to her; yet she is very "easy about that, if she can but bring "men to her lure."

But why then, said I, is she allowed to be in such a place with so many other ladies here, who are accounted women of virtue and character? "And how "can it be helped, answered he; if the "conduct of women were once to be "nicely scrutinized before admittance, "farewel to this assembly-room."

Who is that young lady with a long face, walking near the other chimney, as stately as a rough-footed pidgeon? "She "comes from Ireland; her mother "brought her hither for a husband; but "both she and her mother are mere

"novices;

"novices; and I believe, inftead of the "matrimonial path, they will ftrike into "the highway which lies only on one "fide of it."

One queftion more, and the laft. Obferve this middle-fized lady coming towards us, with large eyes and pretty mouth, and a fine complexion, though fomewhat brown: who can fhe be? "That is only Mifs B—, who, like "many others, comes here to fet her al-"lurements to fale, and try whether fhe "cannot get a rich match by them. I "know fhe is reckoned a beauty; but I "who love a fine cheft, and hold a ma-"jeftic carriage an effential part of beau-"ty, cannot clafs her under that predica-"ment; for, with me, it is not a fine "face only which makes a beauty."

LETTER XCI.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-fan *to the Mandarin*, Cham-pi-pi, *at* Bath.

Montpellier.

AN author is juft come here, and of fome reputation, being newly releafed from the Baftile, after a twelve-month's

month's confinement, for the licentiousness of his pen against the royal house. In France nothing brings a man into better vogue than the government's laying hands on him.

This however is a little conceited vain creature, who has got himself a name in the world for bringing a woman to think attentively through the space of fifteen volumes, who perhaps had not thought before through twenty pages in her whole life.

This lady, who formerly acted a considerable part in France, had written some letters: these he has taken for his text, with the addition of a very long work likewise, under the title of Letters. This, it may be said, is making the public turn on the pivot of a name for several volumes successively.

He is here listened to as a kind of oracle; and wherever he makes his appearance, a crowd immediately gathers about him. I have seen this same author; and his reputation led me to enter into conversation with him; but I can assure thee, there is not a more tiresome mortal under the cope of heaven. Though his works are sufficiently insipid,

pid, yet had I much rather read him than hear him.

I queſtion whether he would yet have emerged above the mob of trivial writers; but what farther heightened his reputation, is, a diſpute which he had with an author, very juſtly celebrated, who condeſcended to honour him with his public contempt, and took the trouble to cruſh him. In France ſuch a glorious death cauſes the corpſe of a bookmaker to be held in great veneration.

Numbers in this kingdom would not know that ſuch a perſon had ever exiſted, had not that learned perſon literarily killed him. Thou ſeeſt, that to get a name here is not a matter of any great difficulty; ſince a duel of invectives raiſes a character, which were better unknown.

I am out of patience with the Europeans, to think how very little genius will procure the reputation of having a great deal.

LET-

LETTER XCII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-toù-na, *at* Pekin.

Bath.

THE Europeans will ever be re-touching nature, as if they miſtruſted God's works, and queſtioned whether they were perfect.

Had the Creator of the univerſe been diſpoſed to give another form to the world, it was intirely in his power; he could have endued plants with ſpeech, and have animated trees.

Some people in England paſs away their life in changing the diſpoſition of matter, and ſtriking out a new creation. Let art be employed in enriching nature, and not in giving it decorations, which, inſtead of encreaſing its treaſures, ſtint and bury them.

A few days ago I paid a viſit to a gentleman, at his ſeat thirty miles from Bath; where he ſpends his time in turning plants into houſes, and cutting trees into beaſts and men.

On my alighting he took me into his garden, where he ſhewed me a ſum-

mer-

mer-houſe, the walls of which were of box, the roof of cypreſs, and the windows of vine leaves. From thence he led me to his new-laid foundations of a branchy palace, in which are to be twelve apartments, beſides offices and ſervants rooms.

From the vegetable buildings, we went to the menagerie of plants, which contained lions, crocodiles, elephants, dogs and foxes, all intermingled.

The next curioſity was the gallery of the emperors, all in trees. Here he ſhewed me a Julius Cæſar, and aſked me whether I did not think his gardener's ſheers had hit the features perfectly well? As to Nero, ſaid he, pointing to that emperor, he is of my own cutting; I did it from a print, which is a perfect likeneſs of that prince. After ſhewing me all theſe illuſtrious perſonages, whom every winter kills, and every ſpring brings to life, he acquainted me with a grand military ſcheme, in the like taſte: This is nothing leſs than cutting out a complete army ranged in battle out of a large wood, which he is determined to ſacrifice to this whim.

The

The light troops are to consist of young willows, set on purpose; young cypresses are to form the regiments of foot, and aged oaks the heavy cavalry.

Being still without a general for his army, and determined to have one of eminent reputation, he has desired me, on my return to London, to send him a print of my lord Granby; for he has a laurel, the crown of which is bare of leaves, or, to use his expression, is bald, and this will make a perfect likeness.

What troubles me about this gentleman and his army is, the want of provisions; there is not a bushel of corn in his house; most of his grounds lie fallow; and in the midst of his Roman emperors, his menageries and summer-houses he is in danger of starving.

LETTER XCIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

Bath.

NEVER in my life have I so much yawned as since I am among the pleasures of Bath. In the whole world there

there is not a more tiresome manner of diverting one's self than here. If you are more at liberty than at London, you are more confined in entertainments. They are all of a piece; what was done yesterday, is acted again to-day and to-morrow; what is done to-day will be repeated: now this makes an insupportable uniformity. I could almost compare the company at Bath to monks, during a country recreation.

The sprightliness of this diverting place was almost at its last gasp, when luckily it was recovered from its lethargy by the arrival of the duke of York, brother to the reigning monarch. At his entering the town, all the bells were set a ringing, and three hours after, the violins struck up, there being that night an extraordinary ball, where the fair sex paraded in all the art and magnificence of dress.

Women, by the institutes of the place, are allowed to affect sickness in their attire. Any appearing in full dress would be thought to be on the catch for lovers; and a young miss tricked up would be charged with looking out for a husband, which misses are always to do, but their design

design is not to be perceived. This is another Bath maxim. But herein the fair sex are so far from being loosers, that coquettes are furnished with new arms. European beauty is always to be under some slight indisposition; strong and hale features are looked on with little emotion, whilst a pale languid countenance enflames. The face of a pretty woman in a sick dress, has an inconceiveable effect on the appetite of a man in full health.

This prince, who is both extremely good natured and complaisant to the fair sex, danced with several women, and talked with all, without exception of faces. This spread an uniform gaiety over all countenances. Princes in Europe may be compared to skilful geometricians in physiognomy. They are capable of adjusting the rate of charms by a level: it was easy however to distinguish spight in the faces of the most beautiful, upon seeing themselves put on the same footing with those who were not so; for such is the jealousy of beauty, that what is given to others, it looks on as taken from itself.

I was highly entertained with the little artifices of these female water drinkers to attract the prince's eye, when, after the ball he was walking in the assembly room. One disposed her movements, and measured her steps so exactly, as to be face to face before him on his turning. Another took her dimensions so as to be driven involuntarily in front of him. One freely asked him, *how does your Royal Highness like our assembly?* Another was for drawing him insensibly from the crowd into a corner.

The prince for his part seemed no novice at this game, speaking to one, smiling to another, casting a look at a third, whispering to a fourth, talking with a fifth; and I observed that he took particular care not to overlook the mothers: for, by the grace of God, this place is pretty well stocked with them. This scene lasted till midnight, when the prince withdrawing, all the women who were come there only on his account, took themselves away to their several homes.

LET-

LETTER XCIV.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Montpellier.

WHAT I feared is come to paſs; my being conſtantly among ſo many phyſicians has brought an illneſs on me: it is more particularly owing to one prating member of that faculty, who, by harping continually on ſplenetic diſorders, has talked me into an obſtruction in the liver. I am afraid I ſhall not ſoon get over it; a diſtemper derived from phyſic itſelf, is not very eaſily removed.

I have conſulted the celebrated Eſculapius of this city, and he preſcribed me iron-filings as an infallible ſpecific in ſuch caſes. As a proof that he went on ſure grounds, he ſhewed me a little book, in which were the names of ſeveral perſons whom he had cured by that remedy; for the phyſicians at Montpellier keep a regiſter of the names of all the patients whom they cure; as

to those whom they kill, they think them not worth remembering.

I dare say, no less than two or three iron bars have gone down my throat without my being ever the better; on which, that respectable body, at a second consultation, have prescribed to me Vall's waters, drank on the spot: accordingly I set out to-morrow for this remedy, which lies twenty-five leagues from this place.

This journey will carry me something out of my way to Spain; but what is a traveller without health?

LETTER XCV.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-ha, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE English highwaymen are exceeding polite, doing business with great civility: at present, indeed, it is only persons of good breeding who engage in that profession.

On my return from Bath, the coach, in which were the baronet, another traveller, and myself, was stopped, within fifty

fifty miles of London, by two of those gentlemen. After the usual ceremony of the pistol, one of them putting his hat into the coach, very civilly demanded our purses. On this, our hands were soon in our pockets; but having been forewarned how frequent robberies were, I had scarce any more money about me than what would bear my charges. I put two guineas into the hat, the baronet, perhaps for the same reason, put the like sum; but our fellow traveller, who was a merchant in the city, tossed into it a purse with *above a hundred guineas.*

"At this, the robber, who held the "hat, said to me, sir, take back your "money, and you likewise Sir T——, "naming the baronet by his name, it "is not to injure any one that we deal "on the highway, and run the risque of "being hanged: this money you will "want on the road, and were we to take "it from you, you would be stripped "by the landlords of inns, a kind of "public robbers, strangers to all man-"ners and hospitality.

"As to you, sir, continued he, ad-"dressing himself to the merchant, you

" don't want a hundred guineas to carry
" you to London; but since it is not fair
" that you should be a sufferer by the
" way, there's two guineas likewise for
" your travelling charges. Sir, said the
" baron to the highwayman, is there
" any farther danger on the road? to
" be sure there is, answered he, for since
" this war, in which England gained
" immortal glory, the roads swarm with
" robbers; but we shall give you a
" passport, which will secure you; for
" it is troublesome to gentlemen to be
" every moment putting their hands in
" their pockets: and accordingly he gave
" the baron a card, the contents of which
" were as follow.

" We L— and N— highwaymen,
" signify to all whom it may concern,
" that this carriage has been stopped
" and robbed, and that the passengers
" in it have no more money than what
" is necessary to carry them to London,
" whither they are going. All of our
" profession are hereby desired to let
" them pass freely, as we would do the
" like honour to any passport of theirs,
" &c."

When our carriage began to move on, "this, said I, is an admirable police in "highway robberies; even in China, "where every thing is done philosophi-"cally, robberies have nothing of this "morality."

The baronet and I, allowed that there was something of equity in this way of plundering passengers, but the city merchant warmly dissented from us.

"Methinks, said I to him, without "some principles of education a man "would not think of tempering an act "of violence with an equity of this "kind. Why, answered he, most of "our highwaymen have been well "brought up.

"This young fellow who robbed us, "and who called me by my name, is of "a creditable family; we were six years "together at the university of Oxford, "and at that time cronies. At London "we also kept company together, till his "debaucheries quite ruined him both in "fortune and character, so that he had "only this alternative left, to hang him-"self, or go on the highway, and he has "made choice of the latter. This pro-"fession has a little set him up again,

"and he now keeps tollerable good "company, for his collections enable "him sometimes to spend high, and "that gains admittance every where. "I have seen him at the play handing "ladies of the first quality."

A highwayman in England, is on a footing with a receiver of the revenue of the finances in France, and, after all, the difference is only in the manner of robbing; for whether you take from the king's coffers, or from private persons, still it is robbing the public.

LETTER XCVI.

The same to the Same, at Pekin.

London.

GEORGE the third is crowned: this is a ceremony used in most European states. The people, once in their life, see that the head of their kings is made to wear the crown.

It was not every body who could afford to see the British monarch on that day; the sight came dear; at least, I know that I paid seventy ounces of silver for my place. It caused an immediate circulation

circulation of ſpecie. I dare ſay above a hundred thouſand points of view were vended on that occaſion. A ſingle window, for ſix hours, fetched the purchaſe of a large houſe; and this circulation had been preceded by others, which I have ſpoken of. It is a pity that for the public good, kings are not married and crowned oftener. Yet, this ceremony may, in a great meaſure, be ſaid to have been performed incog; nobody ſaw it, conſidering the vaſt multitudes who were eagerly deſirous of ſeeing it.

The circuit of the proceſſion, made by the kings of Great Britain at their coronation, is not one half of the court of the imperial palace at Pekin; from this, I ſuppoſe, London was formerly but ſmall, and the kings of England not great: perhaps, likewiſe, the nation has not wherewith to lengthen the proceſſion. There are ſome ſtates where every dimenſion is taken. Now, for the king to walk through five or ſix ſtreets more, would require twenty thouſand ſoldiers more.

Whether George the IIId. ſlept the night before his coronation I know not; but this I know, that thouſands and ten

thousands of his subjects did not so much as go to bed, lying upon scaffoldings, or sitting up in rooms.

The fair sex, which here cannot complain of any restraint, had elbow room that night, as the English say. It was a fine time for intrigue! what numbers of blessed lovers! how many coronations on that night!

At this procession assisted all the orders of the state; the monarchy itself walked personally, and the kingdom in a body followed the crown. The grandees looked like monarchs, and the king and queen like deities. The canopy over George was superb; and that under which Charlotte walked, splendid. I closely observed this young princess: knowing her to have been brought up in a court of little or no pomp, I feared lest timidity might injure her deportment; but in the midst of the most brilliant magnificence, she appeared a queen.

A great number of superannuated ladies walked in their rank: some had been present at queen Anne's coronation. It might be said that the annals of the kingdom followed the crown. The lustre of

of the spectacle was heightened by the united sounds of the hautbois, drum, trumpet, and kettle-drum.

The Europeans are no less inconsistent in their customs and ceremonies than in their ways and manners. The coronation of despotic princes, whose crown is thrust so far down their heads as to cover their eyes, is but a slender affair; whilst every circumstance of magnificence is exhibited on the coronation of Princes, whose diadem scarce reaches their forehead.

The royal pair were crowned by the principal ecclesiastical mandarin; for the church of England, like that of Rome, will have a hand in every thing. The reformation did not clip its wings: some of its priviledges are connected with those of the throne itself. Should a British king presume to put the crown on his own head, it would fall off; and the people, with all their power here, could not take it up again. This is an European prepossession which they will never shake off.

The coronation was performed in the great Pagod, or church, at Westminster, where the kings are likewise interred:

these ceremonies indeed are on two different days, one of mirth, the other of sorrow; but so near, that, setting aside some spaces which pass away with imperceptible rapidity, one is the eve and the other the day. The coronation ended, this august assembly removed to Westminster-hall, where a banquet was prepared for all the great personages who had attended their majesties.

In the height of the festivity, an armed man, on horseback, came into the hall, and, with a loud voice, declared, that if any one dared to deny that king George the IIId. was not lawful king of Great-Britain, he challenged him to a combat. Some laughed at this bravado, and others did not think it worth minding. Yet, I am apt to think, that had this Don Quixot of the British crown been taken at his word, he would have been put to a stand. These are old customs, kept up for the greater decoration; for were European courts to lay aside antient customs, there would be an end of three fourths of their supposed grandeur.

After all the foregoing splendor, I question whether the nation had any very high

high idea of this ſpectacle; for I can aſſure you, that, within a few days after, it was made a public farce of. Notice was given in the play-bills, that the coronation of king George IIId. would be exhibited as an entertainment, and this burleſque turned to very good account.

I was there the firſt night. The great officers of ſtate were repreſented by footmen; the nobility were half a hundred black-guards picked up in the ſtreets; ſome groteſque figures ridiculed the higheſt dignities: a candle-ſnuffer walked as lord-chancellor, and a ſhopman perſonated the lord-mayor: thirty ſtrumpets were the ducheſſes and counteſſes: the king's repreſentative indeed was an actor, but a profligate wretch; and the mock-queen has had three or four baſtards.

I ſubjoin that detail to ſhew you the temper of this people, who carry their liberty ſo far as to turn the moſt reſpectable ceremonies into drollery.

LETTER CXVII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

I AM ſeen here by fits: ſometimes every body crowds about me; at others I am as carefully ſhunned; and this eſteem and ſlight I obſerve to derive from the air. The north wind befriends me, ſo that I am ſomebody whilſt the wind is in that quarter: but a ſouth wind reduces me to nobody; I am then no more minded than if I did not exiſt.

Before I had decyphered this diſlike of my perſon, it gave me ſome vexation to ſee myſelf ſhunned by thoſe who had been moſt fond of my company; but now, knowing the cauſe of ſuch a change of behaviour, I am quite eaſy about it; for I may as well pretend to ſtop the wind as to fix an Engliſhman's ſentiments. The ſullenneſs of a Briton, who, a few days before was all familiarity and courteſy, at preſent does not in the leaſt affect me.

It

It is only looking at the weathercock facing my lodging, and I know of a certainty whether I ſhall be complimented or taken no notice of. When the weather favours me, my valet, who is an arch young fellow, and underſtands his countrymens humour, brings me my beſt ſute, telling me the wind ſets fair for viſits, embraces, and compliments.

But wind and weather being very variable in this country, I have provided myſelf with a pocket compaſs, to know to a minute how I ſtand in the public eſtimation; and I aſſure thee it ſaved me the other day from committing a moſt horrid treſpaſs againſt Engliſh civility.

I had left my room in the morning, with the wind at north, that is, adapted for a turn in the Park, where, according to my rules, I was not to be long without company. Whilſt I was digeſting the introductory compliments at meeting, I ſaw a nobleman who uſed to be very warm in his offers of ſervice, and proteſtations of a hearty regard for me; but, inſtead of the open and chearful countenance, uſual to him in ſuch weather, I perceived him thoughtful and lowering.

lowering. I looked on my compaſs, and found the wind ſhifted; ſo I paſſed on, without taking any notice of him, and he as little of me. This is the rule in ſuch caſes, and a foreigner acting otherwiſe, would be looked on as little acquainted with Engliſh civility.

Britiſh bodies, I fancy, imbibe more air than thoſe of any other European nation; ſo that it gets up even into the regions of the brain. The air, in ſome meaſure, is a check on the nation, and hinders it from going againſt the current of its humour. How wouldſt thou like a people whoſe temper varies thus with the winds, and where, to know whether you ſhall be admitted at a houſe or the door ſhut againſt you, you muſt always carry a compaſs about you?

LETTER XCVIII.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Aubenas en Vivarais.

THIS comes to thee from the empire of the moon; for my preſent abode is on the top of a high mountain

tain in a province of France, called the Vivarais; a name as little known in China, as that of Aubenas. Here, every morning, I gorge myſelf with mineral waters; Vals, where the ſprings are, being but a league from hence.

In Europe the ſcenes of great buſtle and action are the capital cities, as filled with thoſe trades which gratify luxury and opulence; whilſt in the ſmaller towns you every where ſee inactivity and ſupineneſs, the uſual attendants on neceſſity and indigence.

The people of Aubenas have daily much buſineſs on their hands, which is having nothing to do; this is ſuch a vexatious occupation, that it harraſſes them from morning to night.

In ſome parts of the world men are of ſuch a turn as ſcarce to be defined: here this is done out of hand; for they ſeem neither to have turn, humour, nor diſpoſition. The life of this people may be divided into four periods, *they are born*, *they live*, *they drink*, *and die*.

The third is that of the greateſt conſideration, and which moſt illuſtrates human nature. I have ſeen the tombs of two celebrated bottlemen, whoſe ſig-

nal atchievements will live for ever in the temple of memory. One, in a glorious life of fourscore years, had drunk down a hundred tuns of wine; and the other is still more conspicuous in the records of fame, having, though he lived twenty years less, emptied thirty tuns more.

In most countries the deceased are buried within two or three days after their death, but here they cease to live long before they are put under ground. I see great numbers in this place, who, though brutalized by their excess, and civilly dead, still have a mechanical existence.

These corpses never fail daily going down into their vault, where they swill this reddish liquor, which, though it has killed them, now restores them to an artificial life.

Such excesses, thou must imagine, strain the features; and did the place afford a painter, I would send thee half a dozen of these blotched visages, that our countrymen may see to what a hideous degree nature is disfigured by intemperance.

Do not, however, imagine, that these people, being such as I have represented them, must be void of knowledge. Possibly there are not greater politicians in Europe. In the morning, indeed, when fasting, the interests of princes is as so much Hebrew to them; but about four in the afternoon their genius begins to open, and by midnight there is no critical affair in Europe which they are not able to settle.

As to the women, I omit them; indeed, I cannot well say there are any; here is a sort of a female being, which talks coarsely, plays perpetually, quarrels daily, and seldom pays. Such are the ladies which adorn the place where I now am.

LETTER XCIX.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

I Acquaint you with the fall of this monarchy's capital minister. In Europe some orators miscarry by a single comma; this statesman owes his over-

throw

throw to the want of a period. After being the main instrument of raising England to a pitch of elevation beyond any thing it had ever known since the foundation of the state, his business, it is said, was only to have stopped the wheel, and put a period to the British power; which he either did not know, or would not do. The great men in Europe are like clocks; when once wound up, they must go.

His fall was the result of a project formed by the court of Versailles, which had long sollicited that of Madrid to enter into an offensive and defensive alliance with it against England. The French reasons for inducing this power to embark in the war, were not inferior to those of Spain for continuing neuter. Twenty middling volumes would not suffice to give thee a detail of the whole pro and con.

These several points had been under debate for six years past, when the cabinet of Versailles artfully intimated to that of Madrid, that the general peace of Europe was quite impracticable; since England, intending to destroy the navy of every power in Europe,

rope, would not sign it even on the most advantageous conditions. The Spanish plenipotentiary at London had indeed made several motions towards it, but the decisive point had always been eluded.

This intimation alarmed the king of Spain, and he began to lend an ear to the French overtures; but as he required a certain conviction, it was agreed that Lewis should send an envoy to George; and to facilitate the negotiations for a general tranquillity, should recede from some of his claims. This was just what France wanted.

A man was sent over here the fittest in the world to succeed; that is, not to make a peace. More qualities could not be required of a negociator to miscarry. The king did not affect him, he was disliked by the grandees, and the people execrated him. As he spoke merely not to be listened to, he was not listened to; and his memoirs, being drawn up not to be read, were not read.

The English minister, who suspected part of the contrivance, but did not see into the whole, shewed himself very cold about

about the matter, and the conferences broke up. On this rupture it was that a very curious memorial, which had coſt a deal of pains and invention, was preſented to the court of Madrid, and to all the neutral powers in Europe; then Spain declared for France, and the Engliſh miniſter was diſmiſſed.

The two principal faults of which he is accuſed, are, his having exerted his genius in ſtimulating the minds of the people for a continuance of the war, and his having given bad advice on the laſt occaſion.

LETTER C.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the ſame, at* Pekin.

London.

AN European proverb ſays, He who hears but one ſide, hears nothing. Since my laſt I have been informed of the late miniſter's reaſons for oppoſing a peace. He will not allow that he ſteered the ſhip of the ſtate in any wiſe amiſs. He affirms that he had made her carry no more ſail than was neceſſary, and that the

the greatest fault the political pilots can commit, in the present juncture, is to come to an anchor. Here follows the substance of his reasoning: it is one of those ambitious efforts which aims directly at a signal blow, without stopping by the way.

" England, says this minister, has at " present the keys of the ocean in its " hands; its power is superior to all the " other states of Europe; and two or " three campaigns more will complete " the whole work. To what purpose " then these pauses? Why, to give the " powers a breathing time by an unsea" sonable peace? Why do we not vigo" rously put the finishing hand to our " greatness?

" It is alledged, that Europe begins " to entertain suspicions of us; and our " declining the peace offends those " powers who have not yet declared, so " that they threaten to join in a league. " What are Europe's suspicions to us? " Dissimulation in politics may be ne" cessary till a superiority is acquired; " but that being in our hands, the ne" cessity of dissimulation ceases. What " have we to fear from the alliances of

" the

" the neutral ſtates? Are not we alone
" ſtronger than all the maritime powers
" put together? Spain declares againſt
" us juſt in the right time, at leaſt in the
" beſt time for us. Had ſhe broke the
" neutrality at the beginning of the war,
" it might have put us to ſome trouble;
" but her delaying to declare for France
" till it is ruined, is to get herſelf ru-
" ined likewiſe. Our enemies do more
" for us than we could for ourſelves;
" were we to preſcribe to them to ſuit
" their meaſures to our intereſts, they
" could not do better. The continu-
" ance of the war is the only way left
" us for ſecuring an equilibrium, and pre-
" ſerving Europe from being ſubdued
" by an over-grown power. If France
" is ruined by ſea, it is not on the con-
" tinent; and in three years of peace it
" will recover all its ſtrength. Allow it
" this reſpite, and we ſhall be perpe-
" tually beginning. What ſignifies A-
" merica to us, unleſs we for ever diſa-
" ble the French from moleſting us?
" We have made peace with that crown
" many times; and what have we got
" by ſo doing? We have ſoon found
" ourſelves obliged to begin the war

" afreſh.

" afresh. We have already advanced " immense sums for the expences of " this war; unless the conditions on " which we make peace be very advan- " tageous, we shall, after all our victo- " ries, be rather losers than gainers. " Where is the mighty benefit of Ca- " nada, without a free and quiet posses- " sion of the Newfoundland fishery? " What is offered us, is not worth the " twentieth part of our expences.

" But it is urged that the people call " out for peace; and this same people " does it ever know what it would " have? It is a distempered body, al- " most ever delirious: others must think " for it, for it knows not how to think " for itself. But say some, it is not able " to pay the taxes; so it said in the very " second year of the war, and would be " ever saying so should it last ten years " longer. Some add, the state is ex- " hausted; but are those with whom we " are at war in any better condition? " and it is only relatively that govern- " ments are rich or poor."

What a multitude of reasons for going on with sieges and battles, and continuing the desolation of countries.

LET-

LETTER CI.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-ſan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Aubenas.

AMONG the Automata, with whom I now live, I have met with a man who makes them *: he is a famous artiſt, ſent hither by the court, it ſeems, to build a ſilk-mill of a new conſtruction. He is ſaid, as if he were a new creator, to animate matter, and make braſs ſpeak.

In uninhabitable countries there cannot be a greater pleaſure than to find ſomebody to live with. I ſometimes viſit this prodigious man; but, I own, I am not a little concerned that all his genius lies at his fingers ends. In Europe diſtinguiſhed talents ſeem limited to one particular object; you meet with few or no general men. This man's capacity is ſhut up in a caſe; take him out of practical mechaniſm, and he is more a machine than any he makes.

The company here meet every evening in a houſe called the Manufacture, where

* He means M. de Vocanſon.

where every one amuſes himſelf according to his fancy. Some play at cards, others are talking, ſome even divert themſelves with the polite arts: for this houſe is not without three or four muſical inſtruments, ſuch as they are; which is much in a country, where no other harmony is expected than that cauſed by the agitation of the air.

The maſter of this houſe is brother to Don G——, whom we ſaw at Paris. He has ſome general notions of trade, arts, and handicrafts: he likewiſe is not deficient in that capacity congenial, as it were, to people of ſenſe; but which, for want of culture, remains always ideal. The firſt viſit I paid him, he took me into a corner of the hall, and there talked to me of miniſter, miniſtry, political œconomy, finances, diſcoveries, extenſion of trade, improvement of arts, &c.

I heard him through, till he ſtopped of his own accord. Sir, ſaid I, may I take the liberty to aſk you what you do here? methinks you are quite miſplaced; every man ſtands in need of being ſet on a pedeſtal; otherwiſe his talents are

 buried;

buried; and superlative merit turns to no account, either public or personal, in a place which lies above a hundred leagues from the temple of honour and riches.

It can't be help'd, said he. About thirty years ago a gale of fortune drove me on this rock: I came at first to work on one thing, and applied myself to another, which is often the case.

Since the immortal Colbert's time France had greatly encouraged European arts, but without taking one step towards a discovery of the Oriental, tho' making a perpetual use of them. I applied myself to a dye of great use, and utterly unknown to us. My very first operations afforded me hopes I should succeed, and of these hopes I informed the minister of arts and trade: he gave me a great deal of verbal encouragement, as all those gentlemen do; and, that his words might make the greater impression on me, he added a promise of a considerable reward.

By dint of labour I succeeded, or rather by dint of genius; for in arts, of which we begin the discovery only in

our riper years, we are to ſtrike out a proceſs, and this can be done and conducted only by genius.

I was on the point of writing to this patron of arts, when he gave himſelf the trouble of dying; and thus with him was buried the hope with which he had flattered me. For in France, on the deceaſe of a miniſter, his ſucceſſor never fails affecting a different way of thinking: to tread in the ſteps of their predeceſſors, thoſe gentlemen would think a derogation to their grandeur.

However, I was ſent for to court to make a report of my labours; but they did not reward me in any thing like my application and expences.

I have ſince applied myſelf to other diſcoveries equally new and uſeful, and with the ſame ſucceſs; but as yet my reward is to come.

But I would fain know, ſaid I to him, how you have been able to ſuit yourſelf to this country, and bear with the temper of the people. Moſt eaſily, anſwered he; for I don't know that there is ſo much as a people and a temper in the town. When the mind is filled with a project, and bent on its ſucceſs, all coun-

tries are good; nay, perhaps, the worst are then the best, the mind being less distracted by general amusements; and dissipation is incompatible with success. You see the people here in an universal idleness, and I have not a moment to myself; my occupations crowding on me, give wings to time; it passes away with insensible rapidity. This person said several other very sensible things to me.

But, sir, have you no successor? Is a colour all the monument you will leave on the earth? No, no, answered he, pointing to a very pretty young gentlewoman in the company, there is a dye of mine; that is my daughter. And a very sightly colour indeed, answered I; all the Orientals put together could not make a finer.

LETTER CII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

FRANCE and England will soon clap up a peace; the plenipotentiaries of the two crowns are already named;

named; an English duke is setting out for Paris, and a French duke is coming to London.

Their instructions direct, that they are to meet on the road, to see and salute each other, but go on without speaking.

They are to observe a strict silence till they shall set their feet in the closets of the respective ministers, where their tongue is allowed to loosen itself, as indeed there will be enough to talk of.

This event happened when little expected, because in Europe no body has the key of politicks: the people may be always talking of state-affairs; but they condescend to let princes act as they think fit.

Politicians, after running the rounds of their speculations, cannot avoid adapting them to the measures of sovereigns; so that these, in effect, are as the soul of their disquisitions.

Many who have been ten years sticklers for a particular system, are obliged to quit it, and go over to the opposite party. But this is nothing to Europeans, who, if they are but arguing, don't much concern themselves about the

argument. Politicks here is a contageous disease, and without any manner of relation to its causes.

The preliminaries of peace are already known. The substance of them is, that after twenty battles, some millions of lives lost, the devastation of the continent, with the ruin of trade, arts, and ingenuity, each nation is to be pretty nearly on its former footing.

On considering the wars of Christian states, one cannot but pity the European nations, so frequently involved in all kinds of calamities, only for the humour or mistake of their sovereigns. The very monarchs are in some measure to be pitied that they should weaken themselves by schemes of aggrandizement, and, to increase their power, diminish their strength. The damage sustained by the two monarchies in the war now concluded, cannot be precisely calculated; but they have so effectually torn each other to pieces, that ten lustres of profound tranquillity will not recover them; and the people are reduced to such a low ebb, that the best administration possible cannot make good their losses. As to the depopulation, two ages will

will hardly fill up the vast breach made in it. I omit the relaxation of the laws, the vigour of which can never be kept up in such turbulent times: the consequence of this is tumult, confusion, and every thing that is bad. It were to be wished, that the kings of Europe would be ambitious of not making war on each other for the sake of power.

LETTER CIII.

The Mandarin Cham-pi-pi *to the Mandarin* Kie-tou-na, *at* Pekin.

London.

THE empress of the vast European continent, whose dominions border on our empire, is just dead, and her successor's first step has been to recall the the Russian troops sent into Germany against the king of Prussia: it is even thought that he will join them to those of that monarch, whose power the late empress made a point of curtailing.

Nothing more manifests the misfortunes of the Christian nations than the sudden changes of crowned heads, which cause as it were a circulation of havock and

and carnage. This demonſtrates every thing in the whole circle of Chriſtendom to be arbitrary, and political and civil government to be derived from chance.

A nation at one time butchers thoſe, with whom lately they were aſſociated in ſlaughtering others. Treaties, alliances, ſieges, battles, every circumſtance of politicks, generally depend on the life or death of a ſingle prince. The death of Lewis XIV. is ſaid to have changed the plans of all the courts in Europe. A marriage conſolidates a ſyſtem, a burial overthrows it; a coronation more or leſs gives a turn to the whole Chriſtian world.

What a misfortune to be born in a climate where alliances are continually ſhifting at the humour of a ſovereign! to be friends with a people in ſummer, and their enemies in autumn; killing to-day a nation, whoſe lives yeſterday we would have riſked our own to ſave!

For my part, I declare that I had rather be born in the woods of America among the ſavages who know nothing of ſyſtem, than among the civilized governments of Chriſtendom.

LET-

LETTER CIV.

The Mandarin Ni-ou-fan *to the Mandarin* Cham-pi-pi, *at* London.

Aubenas.

BESIDES the aſſembly which I gave thee an account of in my former, there is another publick rendezvous called the Caſtle, which is properly the prince's palace, or lord of the manor's houſe.

Yeſterday I went to this caſtle; for in little country towns you are looked on as an old fellow, if you act not as others.

The marquiſs d'N———, who is this lord, received me politely, but coldly; ſuch a ſerious countenance I never ſaw: however, he has a great deal of good ſenſe, and a very clear judgement. In his youth he choſe a military life, and has ſpent the greateſt part of his days in fighting for the ſtate: for in France honour will not allow gentlemen to mind the improvement of their eſtates; to be a good ſubject, they muſt intruſt their lands with farmers, who ruin them; whilſt, on the other hand, they ſquander away

away the remainder of their fortune in the camp. Thus the demesnes, both of the crown and the gentry, fall to decay, and the whole monarchy lies fallow.

This gentleman has such a general stock of knowledge, that whatever subject be started, he is never at a loss. The discourse in the assembly began with politicks, and he talked politicks; then morality became the topic, and he held forth on morality. Soon after the conversation shifted to finances, and here he gave us some strictures on that subject; all with the most profound gravity, and with no less indifference.

This phlegmatic turn, being far from that of the French gentry, surprised me. Sir, whispered I to one of the company who was next to me, does your lord always look so staid. Yes, answered he, I have known him these thirty years, and never saw him other than he is now: but that is nothing strange, added he; for our country gentlemen in France laugh only by turns. The count d'N—, this gentleman's father, was chearful, jocular, and merry, during the term of forty years, in which, it is supposed, he exhausted all the family's mirth. Perhaps it

it may be the fourth generation before the marquis's deſcendants will laugh, as that will be about the time when the patrimony will be retrieved; then a freſh laugher may come into the world and ruin it a ſecond time, and thus alternately from mirth to ſadneſs, till the family be utterly undone.

I am out of patience with this place; I cannot bear it any longer; and though my health be not recovered, and I am conſequently very unfit for travelling, I determine to ſet out to morrow for Spain.—What ſignifies it? I can but die upon the road, and I am ſure any longer ſtay here would finiſh me.

END of VOLUME the FOURTH.